"I, DRAGON: THE END OF GENESIS" BY JUAN GIMENEZ

NOVEMBER 2011

HEAVY METAL

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HEAVY METAL

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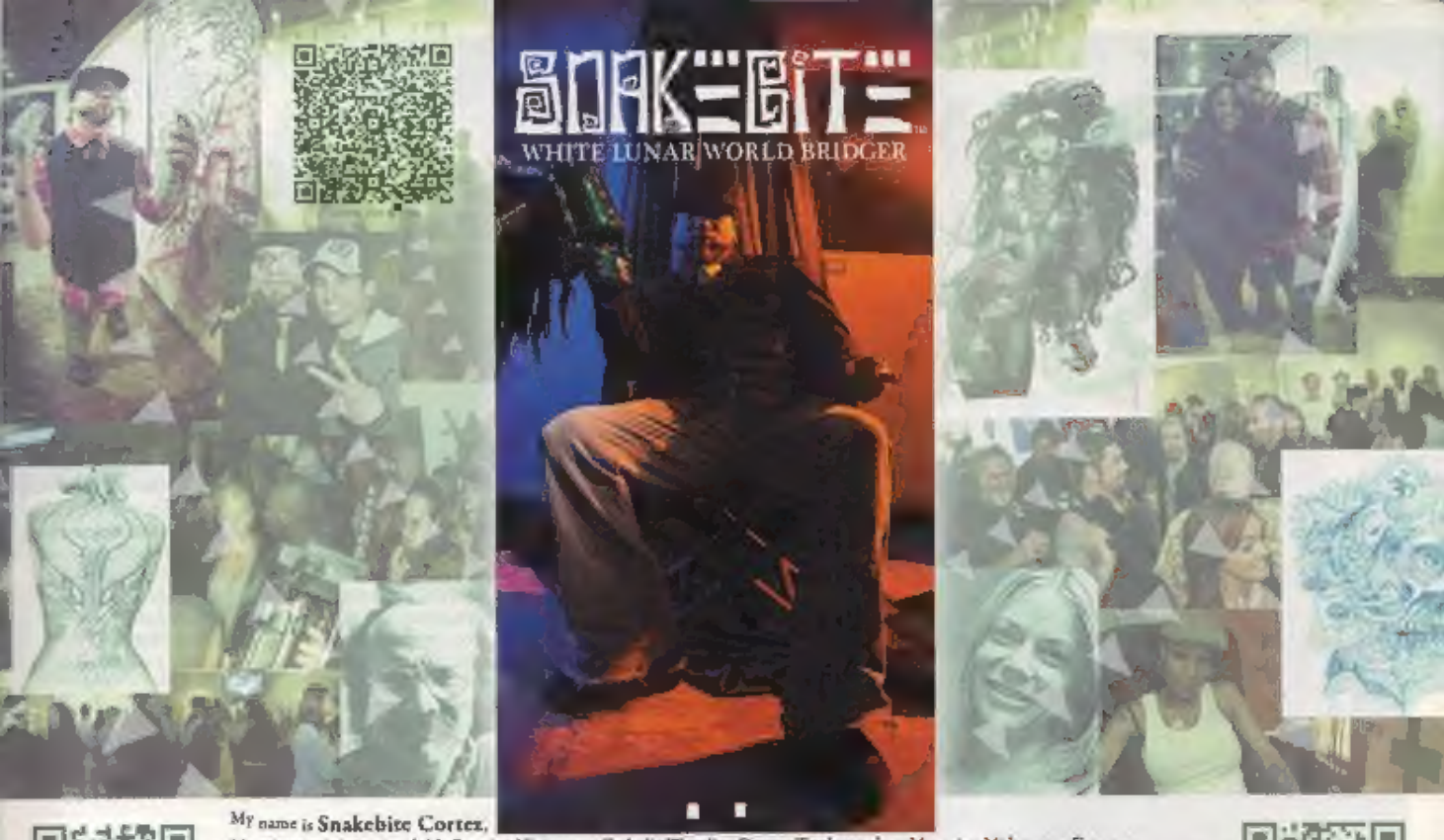
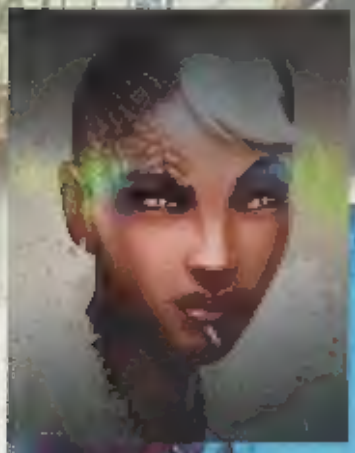


My name is **Snakebite Cortez.**
My existence is intentional. My Pops is a Nicaraguan Catholic Wrestling Dragon Teacher and my Mama is a Midwestern German Hippie Sun Dreamer. These are my people. I started my path early. Making every mistake along the way. I learn, I adapt, I transform—just like you. I'm the most famous unknown dude in the industry. I can walk through many doors and have a specific reputation. My balls and my word do my talking... No hope, no fear, only courage. I wear my heart on my sleeve, and Your Teeth in My Knuckles". Living the Dream. ■ ■■ Paying the Price"...(all trademarked Snakebite Cortez, BTW)...To survive, I've had to be *creative*... Luckily, thats what I do...

All photos by: EJ LaMendola



Forged from passion, fire and pure intent I walk this life one foot in the ethereal and one foot in the real. The trees bring me peace and clarity of thought when dealing with the illusions of the rubber dog shit fantasy la la land we are born into, where war is peace and democracy is slavery. The bass ackwards perceptions of what the ones in charge tell us is important while we turn on each other for scraps is enough to challenge anyone's sanity...
I create to keep focused on love and light and to stay connected to the source of all things...After all, my ideas were there even before I thought of them.

Is this shit too deep for Heavy Metal? LOOK, nipples! I like those too!

I embrace the balance and have huge contradictory philosophies and practices...But that's my right; I'm an artist and I got the get-out-of-society-free card. So bite me.

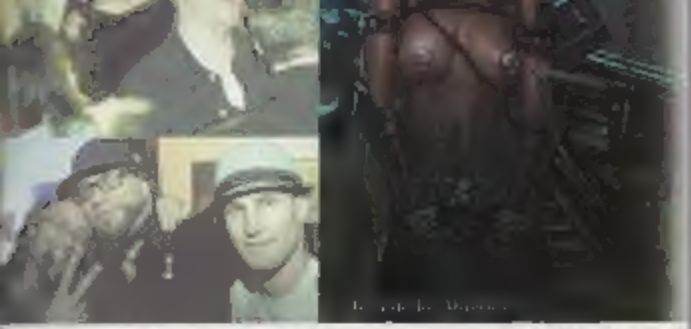
My art and everything I do would be nothing without the warriors of the light in the tribe that I roll with. It's a clan with no walls, no barriers, no hierarchy...We're all leaders. Men and women alike. Equals. All capable of greatness. All capable of making mistakes...most capable of drinking and smoking your ass under the table...

I rolled as a Ronin for the entertainment and fashion industries for 19 years. I worked for big houses jumping into the flames of harsh lessons. Judas turned me over to the Romans so I could die, ascend and return much stronger...thanks, Judas.

My true mentors exposed me to basic alternatives to business practices in the arts. Like the application of common sense and humanity.

Phillip J. Felix, D. Joseph Borcoli, Charles Zembillas, Fernando Rodriguez, you all showed me great wisdom, skills, insight and patience...and killer ball busting abilities. Much respect and love...I've had other teachers along the way, too many to list...but QR code can do the job for me. ▼

© John P. Felix



I was so far ahead of the pack I ended up a little behind but I'm about to lap some mother fuckers...the industry that is...

My latest ventures are things I've been conceptualizing, designing and materializing for a long time...I tell ya, it takes 20 years to be an overnight success. Staying fluid is key. Keep moving, don't stop and never quit smoking weed, cus that shit will save people's lives.

Just over a year ago I teamed up with Cowborg, John P. Felix and family to build Petra Gallerie. A gallery, social club, design house, tattoo studio hybrid mashup.I'm applying everything I've learned up to this point with some amazing people.

CLAIMING THE KILL

Road Kill Pizza Delivery™ is my latest transmedia satirical social commentary, Big Guns Hot Pie™ experience that I have been developing since 2003 when I was building The Red Star universe. It's something I feel is more relevant now than when I originally came up with it. And now the technology has caught up with the concept...and dare I say, so has the general mentality. I believe people are ready to really look at the problems of this world... using boobies as a vehicle of course. I'm proud and honored to be able to announce it in one of the magazines that sparked little Snakebite's imagination and hormones at a very early stage.

RKPD™ is a multi layered rubber dog shit pile of thick and nutty social constructs constructed to construct destruction of your mental function, while facilitating your dysfunction with soft juicy lady bits that you wish you could fuck, son...™

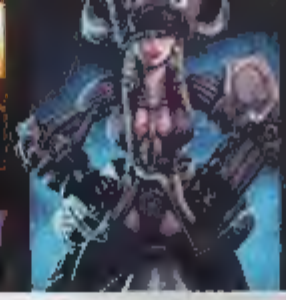
These are motorcycle ridin', gun totin', weed smokin', gladiator fashionistas™ making War for Piece™. In this world, you can get anything, easily, immediately, for next to nuthin'...But your slice of the pie comes at a price not everyone can afford. "Just the tip" means so much more than it once did.

Projected to hit your minds in 2012... if the so called leaders you have elected into "office" don't kill us all by then... So if you're not dead make sure to check it out. Tell your friends...I mean, if you haven't killed them...survival of the fittest and all, there's only enough for some of us, after all...so get yours before some other slave does...

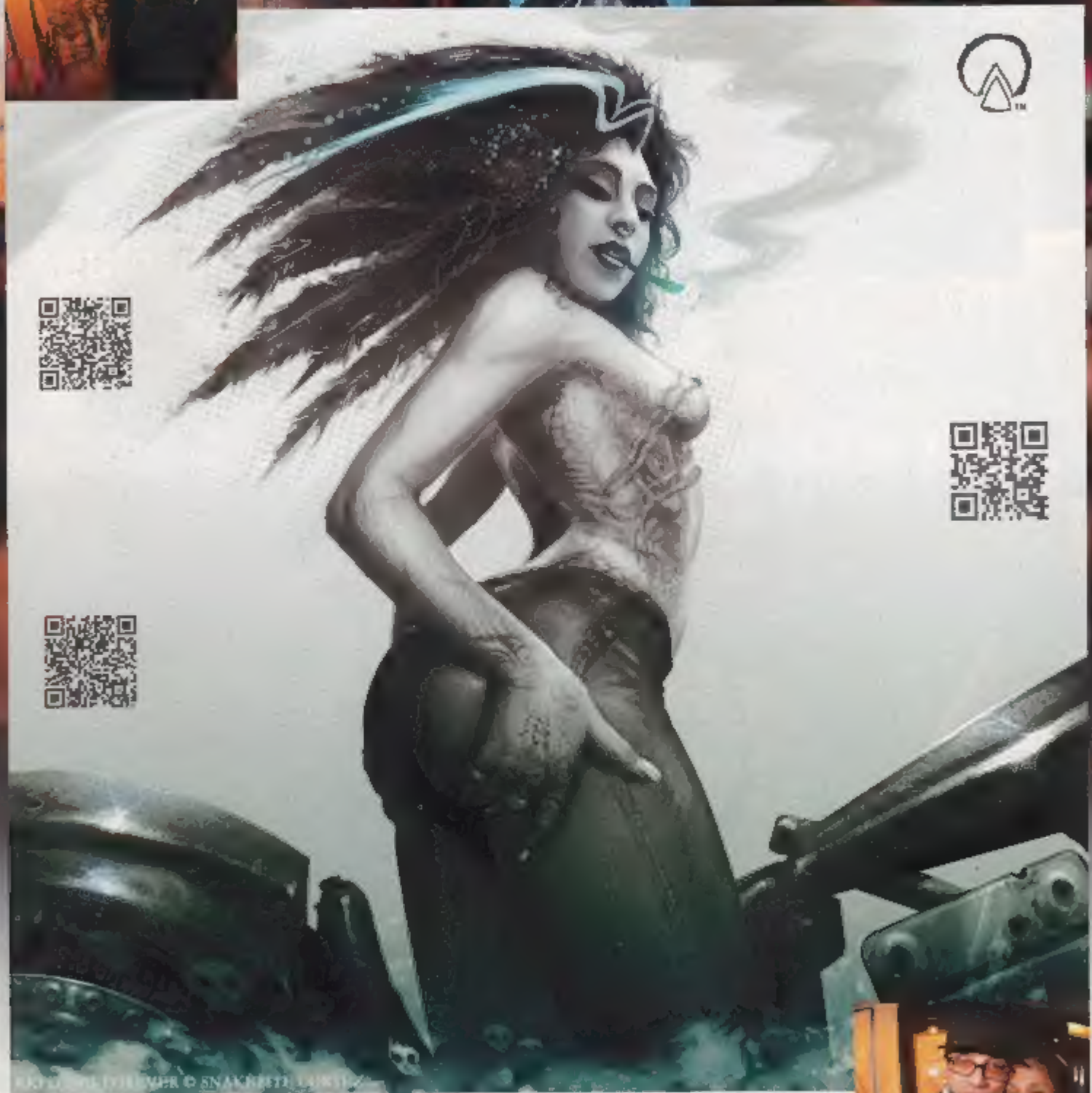
The ladies I draw you want to *fuck*...but thing is,

they don't want to fuck you...

THE THIRTEENTH SIGN
and masks of god
PETRA GALLERIE
MAY 2011 EXHIBIT EVENT
SNAKEBITE'S ROAD KILL PIZZA DELIVERY

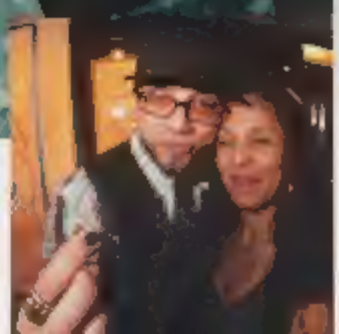


Digger T. Metch, John P. Felix, Joshua Ortega , Buc



When I leave this life I know my last thoughts won't be, "I'm glad I paid the bills on time."...Indeed they will include feelings of great satisfaction of taking chances and loving people all along the way. Memories of things lost and found. Continuous moments of life experience and participation with all things good and bad...Times where I gave my power away and then those times when I took it back and owned it again. Shedding skin and wearing new masks as I go and grow.

I'll do my best to honor the gifts and curses of my time...our time... So when the *great Spirit* comes for my soul to bring it back to the source so it can send it out again, I'll be ready for the next mission. I'll graduate to the next stage of experiencing the experience so we can discover what we experienced....Like big booty, nothin' like that experience...



DOSSIER IS WRITTEN BY S.C. RINGENBERG
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White Indian: On the Warpath Again

The "White Indian" feature, also known as "Dan Brand and Tipi" ran in *The Durango Kid* comic as a backup strip, and is the main reason why the first 16 issues are the most prized of the title's entire 41-issue run. Why are these issues so highly sought after by collectors? Simple: the six to eight page "White Indian" stories in these particular comics feature the art of legendary painter and comics artist Frank Frazetta. Other artists did "White Indian" strips for Magazine Enterprises, notably Frank Bolle, Frazetta crony Angelo Torres, and the mysterious Sid Check, but Frazetta is the WI artist most people remember. This was the longest run Frazetta had on any comic book series, including "The Shining Knight" for DC, which was his next-longest-running series at eight appearances in every other issue of *Adventure Comics* from 150–163.

Dan Brand, the White Indian, was the ancestor of the Durango Kid (real name: Steve Brand) in much the same way that the Lone Ranger (John Reed) was the great-uncle of Britt Reid, the Green Hornet, hence the inclusion of Dan Brand's adventures in the *Durango Kid* comic. Dan was a kind of frontier Tarzan, a white man whose life had been shattered by his fiancé's murder and who almost died in the wilderness tracking her killer when he fought off a grizzly with a knife. However, Dan was soon rescued and nursed back to vigorous health by Chief Great Deer of the Catawba Tribe. His son, Tipi, would become Dan Brand's sidekick and constant companion, sort of Robin to Dan's Batman. Since the series began in 1949, its scripts are filled with the patriotic fervor of the post-WW II era, and Revolutionary War heroes like George Washington (as well as fictional patriots like "George Franklin" and "Haym Solomon") are always shown in the most idealized form. Dan himself owed a lot of his appearance to Hal Foster's *Tarzan* and *Prince Valiant*. He even copied Val's pageboy haircut, adding an Indian headband of course.

Conversely, it's really easy to spot the villains in these stories, whether they're savage Indian warriors, outlaws, traitorous rebels, pirates, Tories, or cruel and imperious British officers. They're almost invariably the ugliest and most evil-looking people in the story. Subtle, these stories are not, but they are fun to read with non-stop (if implausible) action, fast pacing, and the pleasure of seeing Frazetta's ongoing artistic growth. His next-to-the last strip, "The White Wolf" (*Durango Kid* #15), features some of his best work in comics. After his style began to mature, Frazetta was very good at drawing animals, especially bears, wolves, and horses. His depiction of the titular white wolf is a particular highlight from Frazetta's run on the strip. It's also interesting to speculate that the *White Indian* strips anthologized here may not have originally been printed in the order Frazetta drew them since the art in the last WI strip from *Durango Kid* #16 seems somewhat cruder than "The White Wolf", especially Frazetta's depiction of the villain.

In addition to Frazetta's complete *White Indian* oeuvre, this volume also reprints the majority of his work for *Heroic Comics* (issues 65–94), including his public service strip about a lifesaving technique (starring Buster Crabbe!), though it omits his final (and possibly best *Heroic* strip), as well as his one-page ad for the Boy Scout Jamboree that also ran in the *Buster Crabbe* comic. Oddly, the book only prints the first page of the two-page "He Chose to Fight" strip from *Heroic* #72. Frazetta's justly celebrated collaborations with Al Williamson are represented here with "Sunny's Sunday" from *Heroic* #65, and "Chief Victorio's Apache Massacre" (1951) from the Avon comic of the same name, which was later reprinted in *Jesse James* # 20 (1955), though the table of contents at the beginning of the book only lists the reprint and not the original publication. Fortunately, Frazetta's penultimate story for *Heroic* is included here, "Trapped in a Minefield" (*Heroic* #87). It's a minor classic, showing Frazetta near the peak of his form with a tense, dramatic, and beautifully drawn 3-pager. Seeing this and his other Korean War stories like "Only Doing His Job" (*Heroic* #86) makes one wish that he'd done war stories for titles like EC Comics' *Two-Fisted Tales* and *Frontline Combat*, where he would have had better scripts to work with.

Several of the stories reprinted here clearly show Hal Foster's profound influence on Frazetta's comics work, including "Happy Fairy Tales: Diamonds and Pebbles" and "Leif the Lucky", both done for Nedor/Standard, an early client of Frazetta's. "Diamonds and Pebbles" in particular showcases the Foster influence since its princely hero could almost be Prince Valiant's double.

All in all, despite a small glitch or two, this is a great book for Frazetta fans. Although old-time fans may have seen some of these stories in fanzines or previous book collections of Frazetta's comics, there are several rare stories included here that have never been anthologized anywhere and would be very expensive to track down. One caveat about this book: the color pages are reprinted directly from comics printed on newsprint, so some of the pages contain off-register colors and other flaws common to the cheaply printed comics of the

I give *The Complete White Indian* my heartiest endorsement. It will provide hours of reading pleasure as it chronicles the ongoing artistic growth of a man who, a little over a decade later would become

there will be more Frazetta Classics volumes forthcoming, so stay tuned for future reviews in Dossier. The hardcover edition of *The Complete White Indian* is available from the Vanguard website (www

Amazon.com or from quality retailers like Bud Plant (http://www.budsartbooks.com.) As always, when buying any stuff that I've reviewed, please let 'em know that *Heavy Metal* sent you. See you in 60, Metal Heads

Dark Brain Comics—The *Next* Wave in Digital Entertainment?

Despite the current, vast potential of the digital comics medium with all of the delivery platforms currently available, it's been notoriously difficult for anyone to make a profit doing comics on the web. Dark Brain is the latest media company to try publishing digital comics, and based on their current offerings, they just might be able to make a go of it. Sex always sells, and when you couple it with supernatural themes, violence, bondage and kinky variations on plain old sex, as Dark Brain's publisher and head writer Andrew Zar does, then you'll probably have no trouble finding an audience. And yet, the stories aren't simply kinky, hard-edged comic book porno. There are interesting touches in all of the comics that Dark Brain has put out so far, dealing with the toxicity of office politics, the nature of personal identity, role playing, and other ideas that add an unexpected depth and freshness to this material.

Actually, Dark Brain's approach to delivering their content to their audience is almost as intriguing as the stories told in their various titles. For example, some titles, such as *Mirror, Mirror: Forgiveness*, have branching storylines that can go in two directions depending on the choices the readers make. Now this idea isn't new: there was a whole series of *Choose Your Own Adventure* paperbacks in the 80s in which readers could do just that. But, to the best of my knowledge, this is the first time it's been done with online comics, so it adds an extra dimension to these innovative digital narratives.

Whenever a new title is added to the Dark Brain library (and at this point the company has around 700 pages of content available to readers), it's a multi-format release to enable [illegible] to get maximum benefit for all [illegible]s created. For instance, each of the stories is published as a Flash animation [illegible] with voiceovers reading the dialog, [illegible]nal music and sound effects. The Flash comics can be viewed full page on any PC, and readers can self-select more or less story and sexy content. New titles are also released in two different movie formats that will play on iPads, iPhones, android devices, and PSPs. Of course, if you're not into experiencing your comics with a soundtrack, you can also download the stories as full-color PDF files. Each comic is also available on DVD, with all voices, music, sound effects, etc. Finally, after all the electronic options have been explored, Dark Brain publishes their comics as standard graphic novels that you can order from the website or pick up from comic stores and book stores that carry them.

Interestingly enough, the two titles I read, *Mirror, Mirror: Forgiveness* and *Locked Out*, both use with the theme of possession. The 4-issue story arc of *Locked Out* is particularly creepy, starting out with a beautiful blonde named Emily realizing that she is not in control of her own body. Emily eventually realizes that she's been taken over by an alien entity that is forcing her to do its bidding, including fucking her coworkers so that it can gain access to the classified defense data Emily works with. It's an unsettling premise that's well-executed by writer/publisher Andrew Zar, artists Ryan Hawkins, Ed Silva and Christa Rosenkranz.

Mirror, Mirror: Forgiveness, offers a different kind of possession story, but one that's equally terrifying, with a woman named Brenna who's a hard driving, ball-busting corporate bitch by day and a kinky leather-clad dominatrix by night, while simultaneously trying to keep the demonic spirit of her dead sister Miriam from taking over her body and soul. Brenna also has the unfortunate fate to be living under Miriam's dying curse so that anyone she loves is bound to die. *Mirror, Mirror* is plotted by Zar, scripted by the team of Michelle Friedrichs and Waitress Odom, with somewhat variable art by Ryan Hawkins, Christa Rosenkranz, Cheery Fifi and Piro, since the art team changes midway through the book. *Mirror, Mirror: Forgiveness* is Dark Brain's first comic published in the physical world. It's a 72-page full color graphic novel version of the uncensored version of the story, as an added plus, there's a forward by adult film star Tabitha Stevens, who also voices Brenna in the online Flash animation version. It's dark twisty stuff somewhat leavened by the funny intros to each chapter starring cartoon versions of Andrew Zar and his wife, Beth commenting on the action. Read any of these comics and I guarantee that you won't be bored (turned on maybe, but not bored). Two other titles are now in print from Dark Brain, *Locked Out* and *Zeopatra*, with more sexy horror and fantasy titles such as *Too Important* in the pipeline. So, if you're in the mood for something new and like adult comics you'll want to check Dark Brain out (http://www.darkbrain.com). All Dark Brain titles are available for free on the website, but if you want access to uncensored R-rated content and the members' page, you'll have to purchase a membership. As always, when you check out something reviewed here in Dossier, please let 'em know that *Heavy Metal* sent you.

WITH ME...DONNY
I'M LOOKING AT HER
LOOKING AT WHOM?
JUST THE GIRL, PAL... THE GIRL WITH THE BEAUTIFUL SMILE
AND BLEEDS.
LEAVE HER ALONE MOTHERFUCKER!
DONNY... LISTEN TO ME DONNY...
SHE'S DEAD! SHE'S FUCKING DEAD!
ON THE COUNT OF THREE YOU ARE GOING TO WAKE UP...
ONE!
TWO!
MALEVOLENCE

HREH
WHAT? WHA-- WHAT HAPPENED?
YOU HAD AN ANXIETY ATTACK DURING THE SESSION.
ARE YOU OKAY?
NO, I AM NOT OKAY RUPERT, THANKS FOR ASKING.
DID YOU EVER EXPERIENCE SOMETHING LIKE THIS BEFORE?
MAYBE AFTER YOUR PARENTS ACCIDENT?
THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO
I'VE BEEN HAVING THESE RECURRING, LUCID DREAMS. I'M REALLY FREAKED OUT BECAUSE THEY STARTED TO GET MORE FREQUENT LATELY (-I WOULD BE STANDING RIGHT IN BETWEEN THE TREES--
-WATCHING A MURDER AS IT HAPPENS. ATTEMPTING TO SAVE THE GIRL, BUT ALWAYS FAILING.
IT'S BEEN ALMOST SIX WEEKS SINCE I'VE SHUT DOWN THE WORKSHOP. I CAN'T EVEN FOCUS ON MY JOB ANYMORE. JEEZ. I'M LITERALLY LOSING IT
SOMETIMES THE MIND REPRESSES PAINFUL MEMORIES. THEY'RE NEVER FULLY ERADICATED BUT MERELY STORED IN OUR UNCONSCIOUS.
MOST OF THE TIME, THEY JUST FIND A WAY TO MANIFEST ON THE REAL PLANE OF THINGS, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.
MAYBE THIS IS THE WAY YOUR UNCONSCIOUS IS TRYING TO TELL YOU THAT YOU STILL HAVEN'T OVERCOME THE LOSS OF YOUR PARENTS.
MAYBE MY UNCONSCIOUS NEEDS A BEER. I'M NOT FIFTEEN ANYMORE, I'M WAY PAST THAT BELIEVE ME...
WHERE ARE YOU GOING? WE'RE NOT FINISHED YET
I'M DONE FOR TODAY. BESIDES, LYLA NEEDS ME TO PICK HER UP
THEN SAY HELLO TO MY LIL' SISTER FOR ME. WOULD YOU?

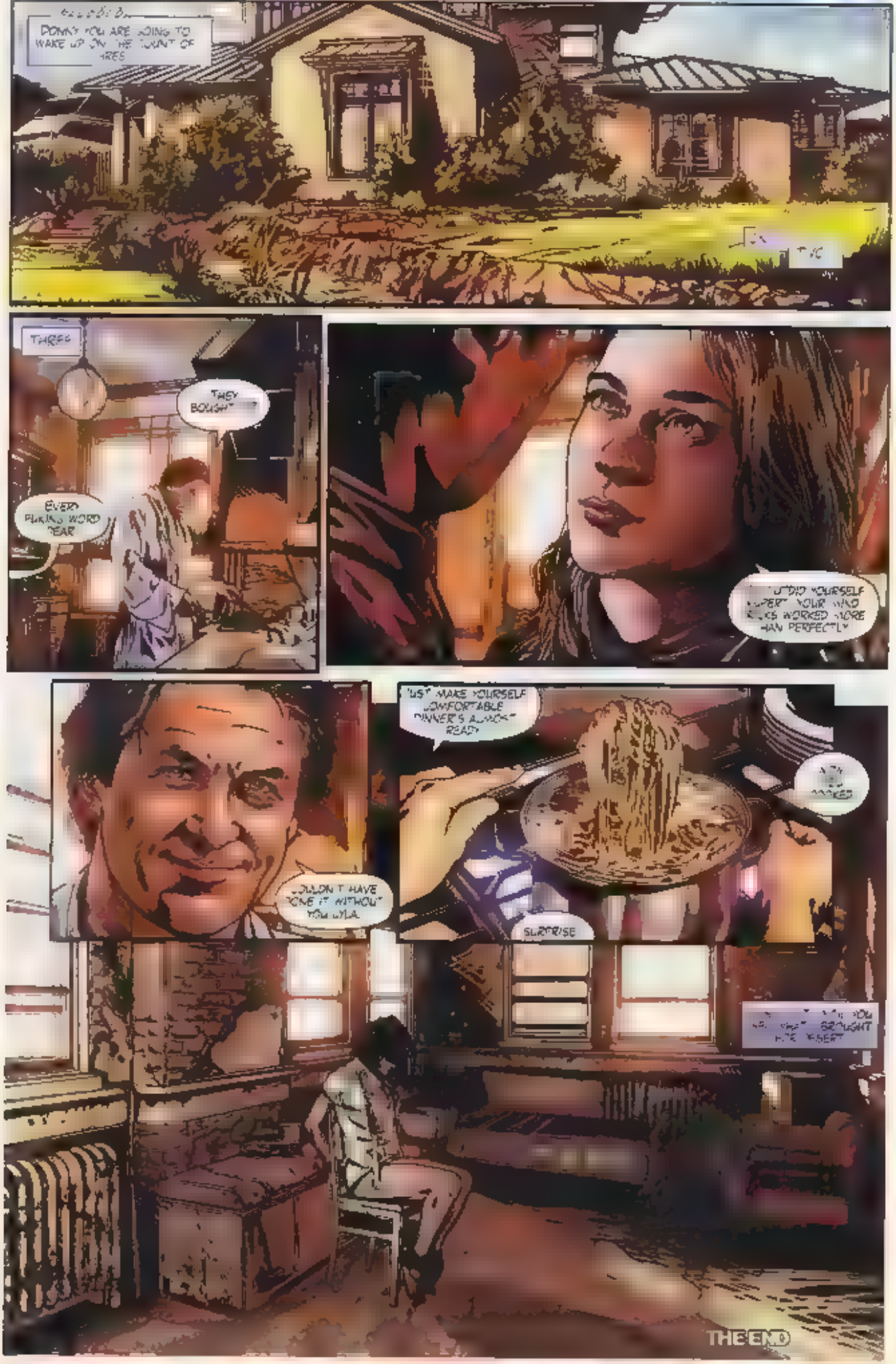
WILL DO
YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE SOMEONE WILL CALL THE COPS.
AND WHY THE FUCK DO YOU CARE? FUCK YOU MAN!
YEAH, WHATEVER.
JUST DON'T LE
WHAT'S GOING ON COWBOY? DID YOU MISS ME ALREADY?

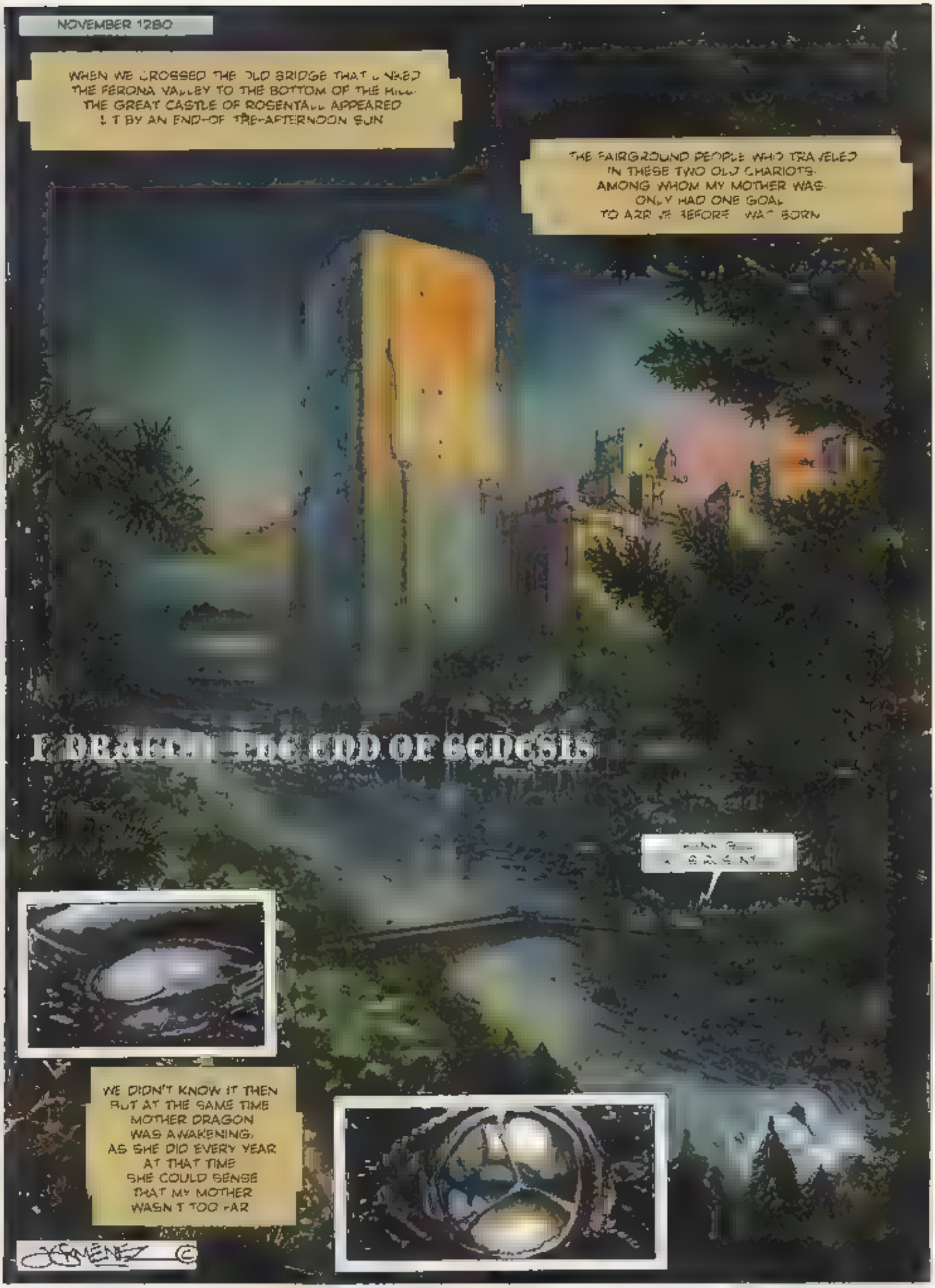
GOD KNOWS I HAVE.
JESUS!
JESUS, JESUS CHRIST
GET THE HELL OUTTA MY HEAD
THREE DAYS LATER...
POLICE FOUND THE BODY OF A KIDNAPPED GIRL
ARE YOU SERIOUS? HOW MANY MURDERS ARE COMMITTED IN THIS GOD FORSAKEN CITY IN A WEEK DONNY?
YOU'RE JUST MAKING A MOUNTAIN OUT OF A MOLEHILL.
BELEIVE ME, I WOULD BE LAUGHING AT MYSELF IF I WEREN'T TOO FOCUSED ON NOT SHITTING MY PANTS. IT'S JUST TOO MUCH FOR A COINCIDENCE, Y'KNOW.
I DREAMED OF THAT GIRL WHO GOT KILLED, THEN THE HALLUCINATIONS. THIS OUGHT TO MEAN SOMETHING.
DID RUPERT TELL YOU SOMETHING ABOUT IT?
NO OFFENCE, BUT YOUR BROTHER IS AN IDIOT
OH COME ON, GIVE HIM A BREAK WILL YOU?
DON'T ACT SURPRISED. HE THINKS YOU'RE TOO GOOD FOR ME. YOU KNOW THAT
NO HE DOESN'T. HE'S AN OLD FASHIONED GUY—
IT'S NOTHING PERSONAL. HE JUST NEVER UNDERSTOOD HOW I ENDED UP GETTING ENGAGED TO A SCULPTOR.
WOW, IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MAKE ME FEEL BETTER?
HEH. DONNY HE JUST WANTS TO HELP. WE ALL DO.

...IF THIS MUST HAVE A RATIONAL EXPLANATION
YOU'RE GOING THROUGH A TOUGH TIME THAT'S ALL
YOU NEED TO LOOSEN UP. I CAN HELP WITH THAT YOU KNOW.
LYLA, NOT NOW, I'M...
JUST STOP IT. DON'T SAY ANYTHING ELSE.
NOT A WORD
OOOH! YEAAH!
DON'T STOP DONNY!
KEEP GOING!
KILL ME YOU DAMN BASTARD! KILL ME!!
SHIT!! I'M SORRY I CAN'T
DONNY ARE YOU OKAY? WHAT HAPPENED? IT'S ALRIGHT, TALK TO ME
SAW HER AGAIN. SHE APPEARED RIGHT THERE IN FRONT OF ME. THIS SHIT'S MESSING WITH MY HEAD

DONNY'S WORKSHOP
OKAY DONNY, WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO BE LOOKING FOR?
I DON'T KNOW. I JUST... I'M FOLLOWING AN INTUITION. I KNOW HOW CRAZY IT SOUNDS
I HAVE A FEELING THAT ALL THE ANSWERS ARE HERE.
SOMEWHERE I CAN ALMOST SENSE IT LYLA.
CLOSURE.
WHAT'S HERE?
IT'S WEIRD I DON'T REMEMBER DOING IT UNTIL NOW..
I THINK, I THINK IT'S FINALLY COMING BACK TO ME
YOU HID A KEY IN A SCULPTURE? WHAT FOR?
JESUS CHRIST, REMEMBER
HAT GIRL

WE HAVE NO FURTHER COMMENTS ON THE SITUATION.
DONNY DRAKE'S CONFESSION SPEAKS FOR ITSELF
HE'S GUILTY AS CHARGED
AND REST ASSURED
"HE WILL BE SEVERELY SENTENCED
DONNY DRAKE SESSION THREE
NO GOD, NO! I CAN'T DO THAT I CAN'T
DONNY DONNY LISTEN TO ME YOU HAVE TO FOCUS. CONSTRUCT THAT IMAGE FOR ME I KNOW HOW HARD IT IS BUT YOU HAVE TO DO


DON'T YOU ARE GOING TO WAKE UP ON THE COUNT OF THREE
THREE
THEY BOUGHT
EVERY FUKING WORD YEAR
I DID YOURSELF A FAVOR AND YOUR WIFE DOES WORKED MORE THAN PERFECTLY
JUST MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE DINNER'S ALMOST READY
I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU LYLA
SURPRISE
THE END


NOVEMBER 1280
WHEN WE CROSSED THE OLD BRIDGE THAT SPANNED THE FERONA VALLEY TO THE BOTTOM OF THE HILL, THE GREAT CASTLE OF ROSENTAL APPEARED LIT BY AN END-OF-PRE-AFTERNOON SUN
THE FAIRGROUND PEOPLE WHO TRAVELED IN THESE TWO OLD CHARIOTS, AMONG WHOM MY MOTHER WAS, ONLY HAD ONE GOAL TO ARRIVE BEFORE SHE WAS BORN
FRACTAL - THE END OF GENESIS
WE DIDN'T KNOW IT THEN BUT AT THE SAME TIME MOTHER DRAGON WAS AWAKENING, AS SHE DID EVERY YEAR AT THAT TIME SHE COULD SENSE THAT MY MOTHER WASN'T TOO FAR
JIMENEZ ©

THE CHILD MAY ARRIVE ANY MINUTE WE'LL BE LUCKY IF HE IS BORN WITHIN THESE WALLS
AT THE SAME TIME, A LONE HORSEMAN WAS HEADING TOWARD THE FORTRESS USING A DIFFERENT PATH
A HORSEMAN IN GREAT DANGER, BECAUSE HE WAS AT THE MERCY OF A PATROL FROM TROPEN'S ARMY
LET HIM GO. TREPPO NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO SHOW OUR PRESENCE
SHIT! THIS ONE JUST GOT A MEE- A SECOND [illegible]
SILVIA WILL BE SO HAPPY TO LEARN THAT YOU'RE ABOUT TO GIVE BIRTH
AND JORKIN WILL BE SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU, KRISS DID YOU ALREADY FORGET?
TELL ME ABOUT IT ALKA
IF THERE IS SOMETHING THAT I HATE WHEN I COME TO ROSENTAHL IT IS TO BE OBLIGATED TO SEE JORKIN WHAT AN IDIOT
YOU MUST ADMIT HE IS A DANGEROUS IDIOT

LOOKS LIKE THE PERONA VOLCANO WANTS TO JOIN THE PARTY THAT IS ABOUT TO BEGIN AT THE CASTLE
WHO ARE YOU?
GRAND MASTER OF PAPYREN. PRINCE OF NORFOLKEN.
LET'S SEE OH SEE, A SPECIAL GUEST WELCOME TO ROSENTALL. MILORD
THIS WAY MILORD WILL LEAD YOU TO THE PRIOR
GOOD EVENING. KAMIL. I AM HAPPY TO SEE YOU AGAIN THIS YEAR. THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE IN THE PROGRAM. KING BELMONTH S ASKING YOU TO PERFORM TONIGHT YOU KNOW WHERE TO GO?
I KNOW. TOLBAC WE WILL DO OUR BEST

AND THIS IS MY DAUGHTER SILVIA
WE'VE BEEN INTRODUCED ALREADY YOU CAN SEAT NEXT TO ME
THANK YOU IT'S AN HONOR
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN, KRIGG? I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER MAKE IT!
WAS WITH PRINCESS SILVIA WHEN I TOLD HER THE SHAPE VALKA WAS IN, SHE HAD HER TRANSFERRED TO A SUITE AT THE CASTLE
HAD TO HELP HER HOW'S IT GOING HERE?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I SAW SO MUCH FOOD AND WINE WE WERE TOLD TO COME OUT AT THE END OF THE DINNER
PRINCE ROB'S MY NEW MILITARY AND WEAPONS ADVISER HE WILL MODERNIZE OUR TROOPS TO PROTECT OUR KINGDOM LET'S HAVE A TOAST!
AT THE SAME TIME, OUTSIDE OF THE CASTLE, THE WESTERN POST WAS THE FIRST TO SUCCUMB UNDER A SILENT FURY
THE NORTHERN POST WOULD FALL SOON, TOO

AND EVERY POST AFTER THAT FELL
DO NOT LET THEM SOUND THE ALARM
NOBODY WILL!
BRANDON KEN! THE LAST POST IS SENDING US THE AGREED UPON SIGNALS THEY'RE ALL AT OUR MERCY!
TREPPO. ALERT OUR MOTHER THAT THE PATH IS CLEAR FOR THE TILTYARDS
GIVE THE ORDER TO SOMEONE ELSE I'M STAYING WITH YOU.
OBEY ME!
SO YOU DIDN'T JUST DEVELOP IN YOUR OWN KINGDOM OF NORFOLKEN, BUT ALSO IN CHINA HOW FASCINATING!
EXACTLY. I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO LIVE TWO YEARS AMONG THEM AND TO LEARN THEIR WAR TACTICS, ON TOP OF THEIR SCIENCE AND ALCHEMY
IS IT TRUE THAT THEY HAVE WONDERFUL SHOWS THAT TAKE PLACE IN THE SKIES, WITH COLORFUL FIRE EXPLOSIONS?
YES, IT'S TRUE

HEARD THAT THESE PAGAN SHOWS COME STRAIGHT FROM HELL.
" I THINK YOU'RE MISINFORMED THEY'RE MADE POSSIBLE USING A DUST CALLED POWDER WHICH IS MADE OF NATURAL INGREDIENTS.

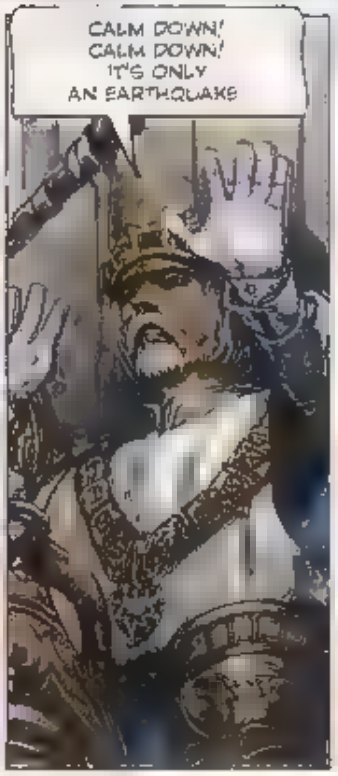
ATTENTION ALL WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE A TOAST TO MY FATHER

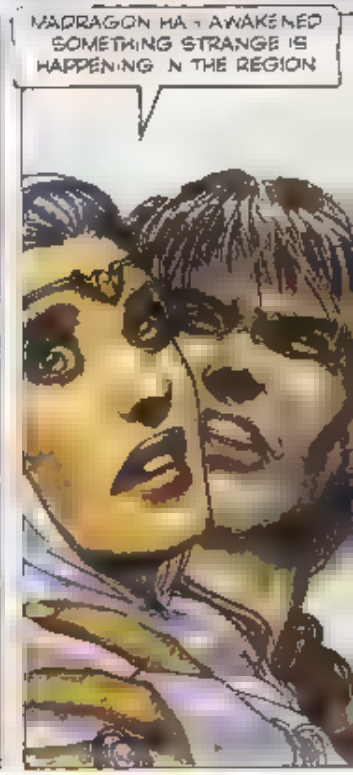
KING FERNANDO BELMONTH HAS BEEN AND STILL IS THE BEST KING OF FERONA, BUT ONE DAY WILL BE EVEN BETTER. WHEN SUCCEED HIM.
JORKIN, SHUT UP! YOU ARE MAKING A FOOL OF YOURSELF STOP DRINKING!

YES, YOU'RE RIGHT AS USUAL. I DRANK TOO MUCH. I FEEL LIKE THE GROUND IS MOVING

BUT IT REALLY IS MOVING! LOOK AT THE CANDLES

THE ENTIRE CASTLE IS MOVING! GOD!
NOOOO!


CALM DOWN! CALM DOWN! IT'S ONLY AN EARTHQUAKE


MADRAGON HAS AWAKENED SOMETHING STRANGE IS HAPPENING IN THE REGION

IT IS THEN THAT I WAS BORN IN A COLD AND LOUD WORLD
YOU'RE ALMOST THERE. VALKA ONE MORE EFFORT
DON'T KNOW YET IF IT'S A BOY OR A GIRL
LOOK! IT'S MADRAGON.
WHERE ?
SHE'S GONE! THE MUSICIANS! HAVE THE MUSICIANS COME! IT WILL PREVENT HER AWAKENING TO RUIN THE FESTIVITIES
IT'S A FEMALE DRAGON WHO LIVES IN THE VOLCANO SHE SEEMS FURIOUS TODAY AND SHE'S SPITTING FLAMES
THEY WANT US TO PERFORM. YOU, KRISS, YOU WILL ENTER FIRST JOBITH, YOU FOLLOW HER THEN. IT'LL BE YOU, SABLES
MUSIC
THE WORST WAS THE LIGHT THESE TERRIBLE SOUNDS. EVERYTHING WAS PAIN.
IT'S A BOY VALKA HE SEEMS FULL OF LIFE
THANK GOD, HE IS SOUND SHOW HIM TO ME!
WAAAAA!
BY ALL THE GODS. IS IT REALLY KRISS? HOW MUCH SHE'S GROWN!

AFTER THIS EARTHQUAKE, THE PERONA VOLCANO CONTINUED TO SPIT BALLS OF FIRE, GETTING THE ENTIRE GUARD'S ATTENTION.
AROUND THE CASTLE. AT THE SAME TIME, TROPEN'S SOLDIERS ATTACKED THE TILTYARDS
THERE! THERE ARE ONLY TWO GUARDS.
NOW!
THE FINAL ACT OF THE ATTACK OF THE CASTLE OCCURRED AT THE TILTYARDS WITHOUT RAISING ANY SUSPICION

AT THE SAME TIME...
I APOLOGIZE BUT I HAVE TO LEAVE I AM TOO TIRED. GENTLEMEN
WILL DO THE SAME MILADY WOULD SOMEONE BE KIND ENOUGH TO SHOW ME MY ROOM?
JUST FOLLOW ME IT'S ON MY WAY
WITH YOUR PERMISSION, MAJESTY
GET SOME REST WE WILL SEE YOU TOMORROW
KRISS, I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU YOU'VE CHANGED SO MUCH.
NOT YOU, MILORD YOU STAYED THE SAME
KRISS, WE HAVE TO TALK COME WITH ME YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT YOU
YOU'RE HURTING ME! LET ME GO!
MILORD, THE LADY ASKED YOU TO LEAVE HER ALONE MAYBE YOU DIDN'T HEAR IT RIGHT?
YOU'D BETTER LET HER GO JORKIN!
MY FATHER INVITED YOU, I DIDN'T MILORD. I'M GOING TO TEACH YOU SOME MANNERS.
JORKIN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I AM THE ONE WHO DECIDES OF ALL MANNERS HERE. YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A FOOL! LEAVE OUR GUESTS ALONE! OUT OF MY SIGHT!

MAY EVERYONE KEEP ENJOYING THEIR NIGHT! MAY THE DANCERS ENTER!
MONSIGNOR, THE QUAKE CAUSED AN IMPORTANT COLLAPSE IN THE DUNGEONS. HIS MAJESTY THE KING SHOULD BE INFORMED
NO. DO NOT DISTURB HIM. I WILL GO THERE MYSELF
VERY WELL, MONSIGNOR
THANK YOU FOR ACCOMPANYING ME PRINCESS. I DON'T KNOW YOU VERY WELL, BUT YOU SEEM A LITTLE TENSE. I HOPE I'M WRONG
YOU'RE NOT
IT'S BECAUSE OF MY BROTHER'S ATTITUDE I AM SORRY ABOUT THAT IT'S BEEN A DISTURBING NIGHT THIS EARTHQUAKE FRIGHTENED ME IT HAD BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE'VE FELT SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
BESIDES, WAS TOLD THAT MADRAGON TOOK FLIGHT AND THIS IS ALWAYS WORRISOME
FORGIVE ME FOR NOT THINKING LIKE YOU, PRINCESS. BUT WHAT REALLY INTRIGUES ME IS TO HAVE MET YOU!
COME TO THINK OF IT, I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT
WE MUST CONTROL THE FORTIFICATIONS OF THE UNDERGROUND LAKE
WHAT'S GOING ON MONSIGNOR FABIAN?

TONIGHT ALL HELL BROKE LOOSE MADRAGON AWOKE AND PRACTICALLY DESTROYED THE FOUNDATIONS OF ROSENTALL
MANY SOULS ARE STUCK IN THE DUNGEONS. I WILL GO SEE WHAT HAPPENED THERE MYSELF
I'D BETTER COME WITH YOU, MONSIGNOR
IT WON'T BE NECESSARY MILADY THANK YOU CONTINUE TO ENTERTAIN OUR GUESTS
YOU SHOULDN'T GO AGAINST MONSIGNOR'S WISHES
YES, YOU'RE RIGHT I WILL ENTERTAIN OUR GUESTS, BUT LATER
IT WOULD BE BETTER IF I WENT WITH HIM WILL YOU FORGIVE ME?
BUT FIRST
I WILL NOT FORGIVE YOU
IT'S YOUR LOSS

IT WAS ALMOST TOO EASY
THE SURPRISE WAS COMPLETE
THEY WERE ALL TOO BUSY
WITH THE VOLCANO.
THEY DIDN'T NOTICE ANYTHING.
THE VOLCANO ERUPTION
HAPPENED TO BE OF GREAT HELP
THE GODS ARE WITH US
LET US LOAD THE CATAPULTS,
HERE AND THERE. THERE'S NO
TIME TO WASTE. THEY MUST BE
READY BY DAWN.
IT WON'T BE EASY
IN THE DARK,
BRANDON KEN.
IT'D BE BETTER FOR YOU
THAT THEY POINT TO THE WALLS
BEFORE SUNRISE
YES, MY LORD!
MOTHER
TONIGHT I FEEL BETTER AND I WANTED
TO LET YOU KNOW THAT WE DID
A GOOD JOB. NO DOUBT THAT
TOMORROW WE WILL SEND HIS
BIRTHDAY PRESENTS TO BELMONTH.
FOR SURE, MOTHER,
YOU'LL SEE
AT THE UNDERGROUND LAKE, UNDER ROSENTAL
EVERYTHING SEEMS NORMAL
WE CAN'T SEE THE SLIGHTEST
FISSURE. LET'S INFORM
MONSIGNOR FABIAN

IN THE RED AISLE OF THE CASTLE
KRISS! HERE IS YOUR FIRST COUSIN!
WHAT A HANDSOME BOY! WELCOME TO THIS SHITTY WORLD, NIKO!
A COMPLIMENT AND A WELCOME WORD TO START MY LIFE SHE WAS RIGHT ON BOTH ACCOUNTS
I ALSO MET BY COUSIN JOBITH.
WE REGRET NOT TO HAVE BEEN BY YOUR SIDE FOR NIKO'S ARRIVAL
WILL SHOW HIM MY JUGGLER TRICKS.
LUCKILY, EVERYTHING WENT WELL DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE THE EARTHQUAKE AND WHAT ABOUT THE SHOW? HOW DID YOU MANAGE WITHOUT ME?
WE DID AS BEST WE COULD DESPITE THE SUDDEN ERUPTION OF THE VOLCANO AND THE FLIGHT OF THE DRAGON
ANYWAY THEY LIKED IT PLUS I GOT AN ADVANCE FOR A PRIVATE SHOW TONIGHT
KRISS, PROMISE YOU THAT AS SOON AS MY SKIN HEALS, WE WILL PLAY TOGETHER AGAIN. FOR NOW, I DON'T WANT ANYONE TO SEE ME LIKE THIS.
OF COURSE TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF. NIKO AND FEEL BETTER GOTTA GO NOW

IN THE DUNGEONS.
THE COLLAPSE OCCURRED IN THE OLDEST GALLERIES. MONSIGNOR FABIAN.
ARE YOU TELLING ME THERE WAS NO PRISONER THERE?
EXACTLY MONSIGNOR, BUT WE DID FIND A MUMMIFIED CADAVER
MUMMIFIED? SHOW ME WHERE!
HE WASN'T IN A CELL HE WAS BETWEEN WALLS IN THE BACK OF THE GALLERY THE COLLAPSE REVEALED IT
PRINCESS SILVIA, YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE. MILADY
I HAVE TO ASSESS THE DAMAGES TOO. IF YOU HADN'T BEEN HERE, I WOULD HAVE COME ANYWAY
BE CAREFUL WHEN YOU GO DOWN HE'S THERE
BY ALL SAINTS
WHAT'S HAPPENING MONSIGNOR FABIAN? IT'S ONLY A CADAVER UNLESS YOU CAN RECOGNIZE HIM?
NO. THAT'S NOT IT I THINK OF THIS MAN'S SUFFERING
CAPTAIN TOLBAC TAKE HIM TO THE CASTLE WE WILL GIVE HIM A PROPER BURIAL NOBODY COMES HERE, UNDERSTOOD?
YES, MILADY

SINCE WE'RE AT IT LET'S CHECK OUT THE FORTIFICATIONS AT THE UNDERGROUND LAKE
WE ALREADY DID AND EVERYTHING LOOKS PERFECT MILADY
YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO TONIGHT WE ARE CHECKING THE ENTIRE INNER AREA OF THE FORTIFICATIONS
VERY WELL, CAPTA'N. I WILL NFORM MY DAD SHALL WE GO. MONSIGNOR FABIAN?
YES MILADY
AT THE SAME TIME. IN THE ROYAL TOWER
MILORD, THIS IS KRISS. THE ARTIST YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR
PLEASE. KRISS COME N. MY LITTLE FIREBIRD. I AM THE ONE WHO ASKED FOR YOU
PR NCE JORKIN'
MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE KRISS YOUR SHOW WAS FASC NATING I WANT TO SEE IT AGA N
SUPPOSE YOU'D LIKE TO GET READY AND CHANGE CLOTHES? YOU CAN DO THIS HERE
WOULD YOU LIKE SOMETHING TO DRINK?
NO, THANK YOU, MILORD THIS 'SN'T WHAT I HAD N MIND FOR MY SHOW I'M AFRAID THERE'S BEEN A M SUNDERSTANDING
MISUNDERSTANDING? LET ME EXPLAIN ONE MORE TIME WE HAVE THE ENTIRE NIGHT
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MILORD? ARE YOU DRUNK?

NOT ENOUGH! COME HERE!
NO, NO, MILORD!
WAIT, DON'T GO!
NO!
OPEN THE DOOR.
COME BACK
COME BACK, KRISS PROMISE NOT TO HARM YOU, I ONLY WANTED TO
GIVEN MY VERY YOUNG AGE, T WAS NORMAL FOR ME TO IGNORE MY FAMILY'S BUSINESS
T WON'T BE EASY TO GET OUT OF HERE WITHOUT ANY HELP
FOR EXAMPLE: MY FATHER KAMIL AND KRISS WERE BROTHER AND SISTER AND MY MOTHER VALKA WAS ADOPTED BY MY GRANDPARENTS, MATILDA AND MENOK
HE WAS TOO DRUNK WOULD HIDE IN A CORNER UNTIL SUNRISE
DESCENDANTS OF A LONG LINE OF JUGGLERS AND ARTISTS THERE WAS ALSO JOSITH AND SABLES, MY COUSINS. EVEN IF THEY DIDN'T HAVE MUCH N COMMON WITH THE LATEST EVENTS

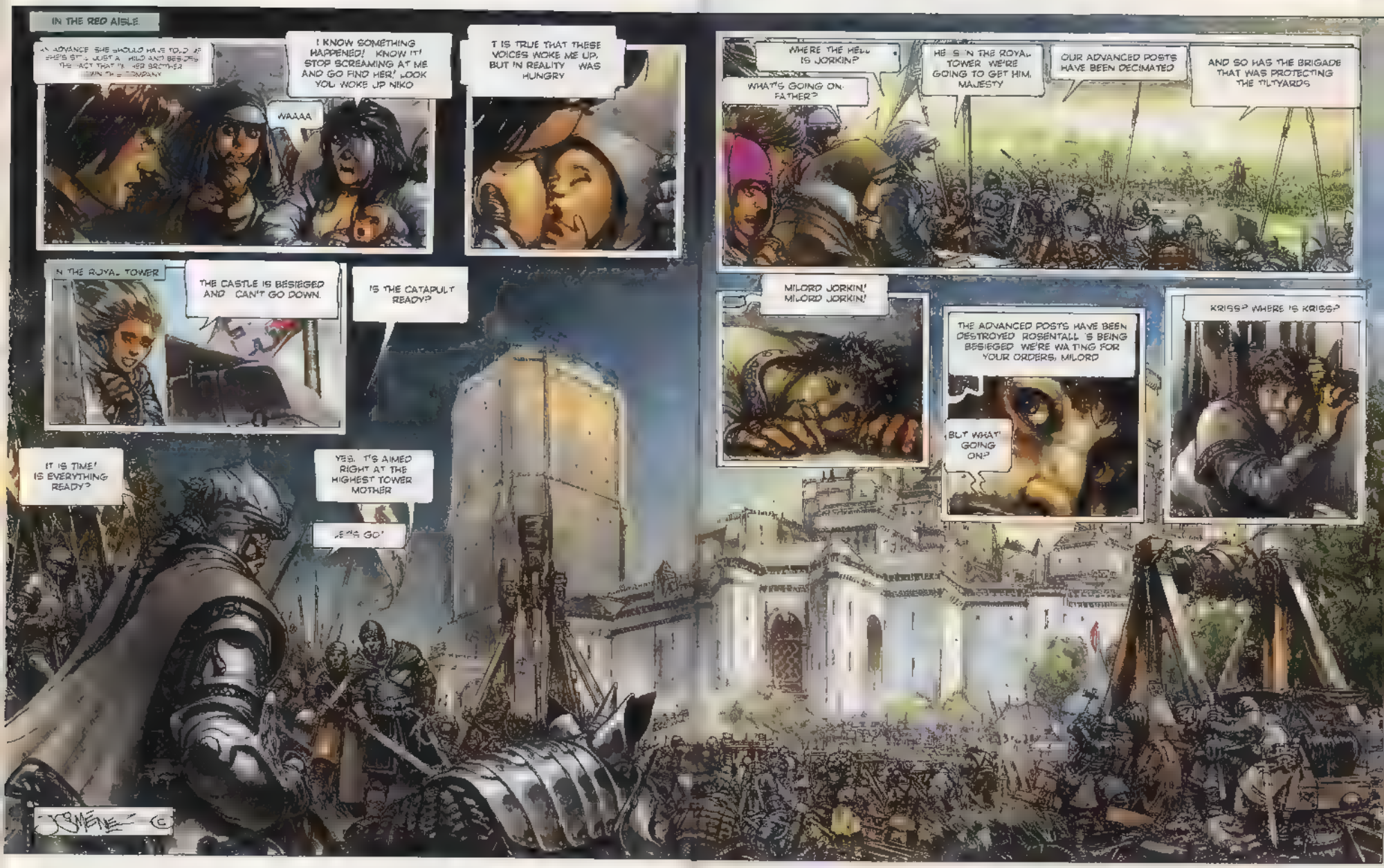
KAMIL! KRISS IS SUFFERING!
HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT, VALKA? YOU HAD A BAD DREAM. GO BACK TO SLEEP!

FATHER, I AM GLAD TO SEE YOU. I JUST GOT BACK FROM THE DUNGEONS WITH MONSIGNOR FABIAN. ONLY ONE WALL COLLAPSED. IT WAS HIDING A MUMMIFIED CADAVER.
MUMMIFIED?
YES, FABIAN WAS SHOCKED WHEN HE RECOGNIZED SOMETHING IN THE CADAVER'S HANDS.
STRANGE! I WILL TALK TO HIM TOMORROW ANY OTHER DAMAGE?
LUCKILY NONE EXCEPT FOR A SMALL FISSURE. WHAT ABOUT YOU? HOW DID THE FESTIVITIES GO?
OH, VERY WELL, EXCEPT FOR YOUR BROTHER'S BEHAVIOR I'M GOING TO BED, SILVIA. I AM EXHAUSTED. WILL SEE YOU TOMORROW
SEE YOU TOMORROW, FATHER

A FEW HOURS LATER, AS THE SUN IS ABOUT TO RISE
WHAT'S GOING ON, SILVIA
SOLDIERS. WHAT'S ALL THIS NOISE? SOUNDS LIKE SOMEBODY'S ATTACKING THE CASTLE!
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT'S HAPPENING, PRINCESS SILVIA. AN ENTIRE ARMY IS SURROUNDING ROSENTALL.

IN THE RED AISLE.
IN ADVANCE SHE SHOULD HAVE TOLD HE
HE'S STILL JUST A CHILD AND BESIDES
THE ACT THAT I'M HER BROTHER
AND THIS DYPANY
KNOW SOMETHING HAPPENED! KNOW IT! STOP SCREAMING AT ME AND GO FIND HER! LOOK YOU WOKE UP NIKO
NAAAA!
IT IS TRUE THAT THESE VOICES WOKE ME UP, BUT IN REALITY I WAS HUNGRY
IN THE ROYAL TOWER
THE CASTLE IS BESIEGED AND I CAN'T GO DOWN
IS THE CATAPULT READY?
IT IS TIME! IS EVERYTHING READY?
YES. IT'S A MED RIGHT AT THE HIGHEST TOWER MOTHER
LET'S GO
JIMENEZ ©

WHERE THE HELL IS JORKIN?
WHAT'S GOING ON, FATHER?
HE'S IN THE ROYAL TOWER WE'RE GOING TO GET HIM, MAJESTY
OUR ADVANCED POSTS HAVE BEEN DECIMATED
AND SO HAS THE BRIGADE THAT WAS PROTECTING THE TILTYARDS
MILORD JORKIN, MILORD JORKIN!
THE ADVANCED POSTS HAVE BEEN DESTROYED ROGENTALL'S BEING BESIEGED WE'RE WAITING FOR YOUR ORDERS, MILORD
BUT WHAT'S GOING ON?
KRISS? WHERE'S KRISS?


IN THE RED AISLE
IN ADVANCE SHE SHOULD HAVE TOLD HER THAT IT'S JUST A MILD ANTI BESTIAL THE FACT THAT IN HER BROTHER WAS IN THE COMPANY
I KNOW SOMETHING HAPPENED! KNOW IT! STOP SCREAMING AT ME AND GO FIND HER! LOOK YOU WOKE UP NIKO
WAAAA
IT IS TRUE THAT THESE VOICES WOKE ME UP, BUT IN REALITY WAS HUNGRY
IN THE ROYAL TOWER
THE CASTLE IS BESIEGED AND CAN'T GO DOWN.
IS THE CATAPULT READY?
IT IS TIME! IS EVERYTHING READY?
YES. IT'S AIMED RIGHT AT THE HIGHEST TOWER MOTHER
LET'S GO!
WHERE THE HELL IS JORKIN?
WHAT'S GOING ON FATHER?
HE'S IN THE ROYAL TOWER WE'RE GOING TO GET HIM, MAJESTY
OUR ADVANCED POSTS HAVE BEEN DECIMATED
AND SO HAS THE BRIGADE THAT WAS PROTECTING THE TILTYARDS
MILORD JORKIN! MILORD JORKIN!
THE ADVANCED POSTS HAVE BEEN DESTROYED ROSENTALL IS BEING BESIEGED WE'RE WAITING FOR YOUR ORDERS, MILORD
BUT WHAT' GOING ON?
KRISS? WHERE IS KRISS?

GO! BRING ME BACK THIS WOMAN! SHE MUST BE SOMEWHERE OUT THERE
THERE SHE IS!
YOU. STOP!
STOP! WE DON'T WANT YOU ANY HARM

GREAT SHOT!
RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE!
IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT M'LORD?
I'M AFRAID SHE WASN'T SO LUCKY
THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO SHE TOOK THE HIT FULL FORCE
ARE ALL THE MESSAGES READY TREPPO?
YE MOTHER ALL THE SPEARS ARE POINTING TOWARD THE MAIN GATE
THEN FIRE AT WILL!

BELMONTH! KNOW YOU'RE THERE LISTEN TO ME, DAMN TRAITOR! AM MADE TROPEN
WITH MY SONS, AND IN THE NAME OF RALF BRONCH, WE ARE COMING TO TAKE BACK THE KINGDOM OF PERONA THE ONE YOU STOLE FROM US TWENTY YEARS AGO! YOU AND THIS DAMN FABIAN WHO, IF HE ISN'T ALREADY WILL SOON BE DEAD BY MY OWN HANDS!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME THE MISERABLE STORIES OF YOUR FAMILY? AND WHY DO YOU INTRODUCE YOURSELF WITH AN ARMY OF BEGGARS?
GOD, TIS MADE TROPEN!
YOU KNOW THAT ROSENTALL IS INDESTRUCTIBLE! IF THE PERONA VOLCANO, WHICH HAS BEEN TRYING FOR CENTURIES, FAILED, THEN YOU SURELY WON'T SUCCEED IN DOING SO!
THIS TIME, IT WILL BE DIFFERENT BELMONTH THE WEAPONS BROUGHT WITH ME WILL SUCCEED WHERE THE VOLCANO FAILED FOR CENTURIES
YOU MUST KNOW THAT THESE WALLS HARBOR SOMETHING THAT BELONGS TO ME AND THAT I NEED WILL ACCEPT YOUR SURRENDER AND THE RELINQUISHMENT OF ROSENTALL WITH ALL YOUR COURT UNLESS.
YOU'D RATHER ME ENTER WITH THE BLOOD OF YOUR SOLDIERS AND THE FLAMES FROM HELL
YOU WILL NEED A LOT OF WEAPONS LIKE THESE TO MAKE ME BOW DOWN, TROPEN. YOU MIGHT AS WELL ROLL THE DICE
I'M SURE YOU WOULD CHEAT AT THIS GAME TOO.

COME TO THINK OF IT. INSTEAD OF ROLLING THE DICE, MAYBE YOU AND I SHOULD FIGHT ONE ON ONE? SINCE YOU'VE BECOME VERY FOND OF TOURNAMENTS AND YOU'VE BUILT THIS ARENA. WHAT DO YOU SAY?
I CAN'T HEAR YOU. DOESN'T YOUR OWN IDEA SEDUCE YOU? OR ARE YOU JUST A COWARD?
NATURALLY. IT WOULD BE TO THE DEATH, WITH THE WEAPONS OF YOUR CHOICE
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE WEAPONS. BUT IF WE'RE BOTH HURT IT'LL BE A TIE
THE FIGHT WILL GO ON WITH THE CLOSEST PARENT
DON'T BELIEVE WHAT SHE SAYS 'IT'S A TRAP, FATHER ORDER THE ARCHERS TO SHOOT! THEY'RE IN RANGE
SHUT UP JORKIN.
WHAT DO YOU SAY, BELMONTE? ARE YOU AFRAID TO FACE ME?
VERY WELL, TROFEN. MAY ONLY OUR BLOOD BE SPILLED. WE SHALL FIGHT. IF I WIN, YOUR SCUM OF AN ARMY WILL LEAVE WITH YOUR CORPSE
IN TWO DAYS, WHEN THE SUN IS AT THE EXACT POINT AS IT IS NOW. I WILL SHOW UP, IN THIS VERY ARENA THAT YOU BUILT FOR YOUR LAST OPPONENT
I THINK THIS IS THE REAL REASON OF MY PRESENCE AT ROSENTALL
TOLBAC, HAD YOU HEARD OF THE EXISTENCE OF TROFEN?
YES, I'D HEARD OF IT. SHE BELONGED TO THE PAST COURT. I THINK HER INTENTIONS ARE CLEAR

DO YOU THINK BELMONTH WAS SERIOUS WHEN HE ACCEPTED TO FACE TROPEN?
PROBABLY. HE'S BEEN VERY WELL PREPARED THANKS TO HIS PASSION FOR JOUSTING TOURNAMENTS. HE'S BEEN TRAINING EVERY DAY
JUST AS JORKIN AND SILVIA HAVE BEEN DOING SINCE THEY WERE LITTLE
GOOD TO KNOW. I'LL TRY NOT TO MESS WITH THEM.
HOLD IT, SOLDIERS! WHAT DO YOU HAVE HERE?
THE ONLY VICTIM OF THE CATAPULT. THE ONE THAT HIT THE TOWER. WE'RE TAKING HER TO HER FAMILY
BY ALL THE SAINTS! I THINK IT'S THE GIRL WHO WAS DOING FIRE TRICKS. THE ONE THAT PRINCE JORKIN WAS FLIRTING WITH.
THAT'S HER, MILORD
THAT'S FINE. KEEP GOING!
YES, MILORD
WILL ASK BELMONTH FOR MORE WORKERS TO SPEED UP THE IRONWORKS. WE MUST GATHER AS MUCH BRONZE AS WE CAN
WE'RE ALREADY TAKING DOWN THE CHURCH BELLS
AT THE SAME TIME.
DON'T THINK IT'LL DO ANYTHING IF YOU WIN. DON'T SEE THEM RETREAT PEACEFULLY. PLUS, DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU HAVE TO GET INVOLVED PERSONALLY?
I DO. IT IS THE ONLY WAY TO SPARE THE LIVES OF HUNDREDS OF MEN
I WILL DO IT. AND IN CASE I FAIL, JORKIN, EVEN IF HE'S STUPID, IS A GREAT WARRIOR
TRUTH BE TOLD, WHAT'S REALLY BOTHERING ME RIGHT NOW IS MONSIGNOR FABIAN

THE MUMMIFIED CADAVER FROM THE DUNGEONS AS WELL AS THE ATTACK BY TROFEN AND HER ARMY SEEM TO HAVE PERTURBED HIM, AS WELL AS ME
HE STARTED BY BLAMING ME FOR LETTING TROFEN, THE MAIN DEMON, WHO IS INTIMATELY LINKED TO HELL AND TO THE WORLD OF DRAGONS GO DESPITE HIS OWN EFFORTS TO SAVE THE SOULS OF THE KINGDOM. PLUS
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "DESERT, IRREC"?
GRANZ METT AND HIS MISTRESS WERE HERETICS, TRAITORS OF GOD'S CAUSE TODAY, THEY CAME BACK TO ANNIHILATE US AND YOU, YOU ARE SITTING ON THE THRONE HELPED YOU CONQUER
DRIVEN BY ANGER, HE TRIED TO ATTACK ME BUT THE GUARD HELPED ME. I HAD TO HAVE HIM LOCKED UP
CAN'T BELIEVE IT! WHO IS THIS GANZ METT?
WHEN TABOR WAS REIGNING OVER THE KINGDOM, GANZ WAS THE SPIRITUAL GUIDE OF QUEEN DONELLA AND FABIAN HIS SUCCESSOR IN THE RELIGIOUS HIERARCHY OF PERONA
YOU REMIND ME VERY MUCH OF QUEEN DONELLA. SHE WAS A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN. BEWARE OF THE STRANGE KEY THAT FABIAN FOUND ON THE BODY OF GANZ METT. IT IS SAID TO HAVE BELONGED TO DONELLA.
WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS KEY GIVES ACCESS TO?
I DON'T KNOW, AND I DON'T KNOW WHY FABIAN TRIED TO HIDE IT FROM ME. I DON'T THINK WE'LL EVER KNOW. FABIAN NEVER WANTED TO TELL ME AND HE NEVER WILL. HE'S DYING NOW.
BACK IN THE DAYS, AS YOU KNOW, MY ACCESSION TO THE THRONE OF TABOR AND, LATER, YOUR MOTHER'S DEATH WHILE GIVING BIRTH TO YOUR BROTHER JORKIN, SERVED AS EXCUSES FOR ME TO IGNORE THESE ISSUES AT THE PALACE
YES, I KNOW. BUT NOW LET ME HANDLE IT. I WILL TRY TO TALK TO HIM. I MUST KNOW. ESPECIALLY ABOUT TROFEN. THAT'S WHAT MATTERS

ROB! I MUST GO DOWN TO THE DUNGEONS. WOULD YOU COME WITH ME?
OF COURSE, MILADY
I'LL GO ASK THE KING FOR WHAT WE NEED, MILORD
ALL RIGHT TOLBAC
I SAW KRISS WHEN THEY BROUGHT HER BACK TO HER FAMILY. IT'S A GREAT MISFORTUNE. YOU'VE KNOWN THEM FOR A LONG TIME, HAVEN'T YOU?
WAS WITH THEM BEFORE. SPOKE TO MY FATHER. NOTHING CAN EASE THEIR PAIN. LIKE YOU SAID, I'VE KNOWN THEM FOREVER AND I AM VERY FOND OF THEM. VALKA'S STRANGE DISEASE WORRIES ME TOO
NOOO!
KRISS! KRISS! NO! NO!
SHE WAS IN THE ROYAL TOWER AT THE EXACT PLACE WHERE THE CATAPULT HIT
BUT WHY WAS SHE THERE?
THAT'S WHERE PRINCE JORKIN BELMONTH'S APARTMENTS ARE LOCATED
HE WILL PAY FOR THIS AND A STEEP PRICE!

TO BE CONTINUED ON PAGE 83

Writer: Abraham Martinez
THE ONLY GOD
Artist/Letterer: Miguel Mora
Colorist: Eliel Cervantes
GIVE ME THE STRENGTH O BRING YOUR FLOCK BACK O REUNITE UNDER YOUR CREE IS SCATTERED HUMAN
I'M READY HOW MANY INHABITANTS IN THE BIGGEST SETTLEMENT? HOW MANY IN THE WHOLE PLANET
THERE ARE 1,503 DWELLERS IN THE LARGEST TOWN AND 687,557 INHABITANTS IN THE WHOLE PLANE HERE ARE 23 MORE VILLAGES HALF OF THEM ARE COMMUNICATED WITH THE BIGGEST ONE SIDE DIOGENES
OUR FAITH WAS SPREAD N ALMOST EVERY KNOWN SOLAR SYSTEM SOON WE'LL CELEBRATE THE CONVERSION OF EVERY COLONIZED PLANET
EVERYTHING READY SIRE. HE HALO-TIARA HAS BEEN ACTIVATED AS WELL AS THE OXYGEN GENERATOR YOU'LL BE COMPLETELY SOLATED FROM THE ENVIRONMENT THERE'S NO ENERGY OR MATTER CAPABLE OF TRESPASSING THE FORCE FIELD WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT
PROCEED CAPTAIN.

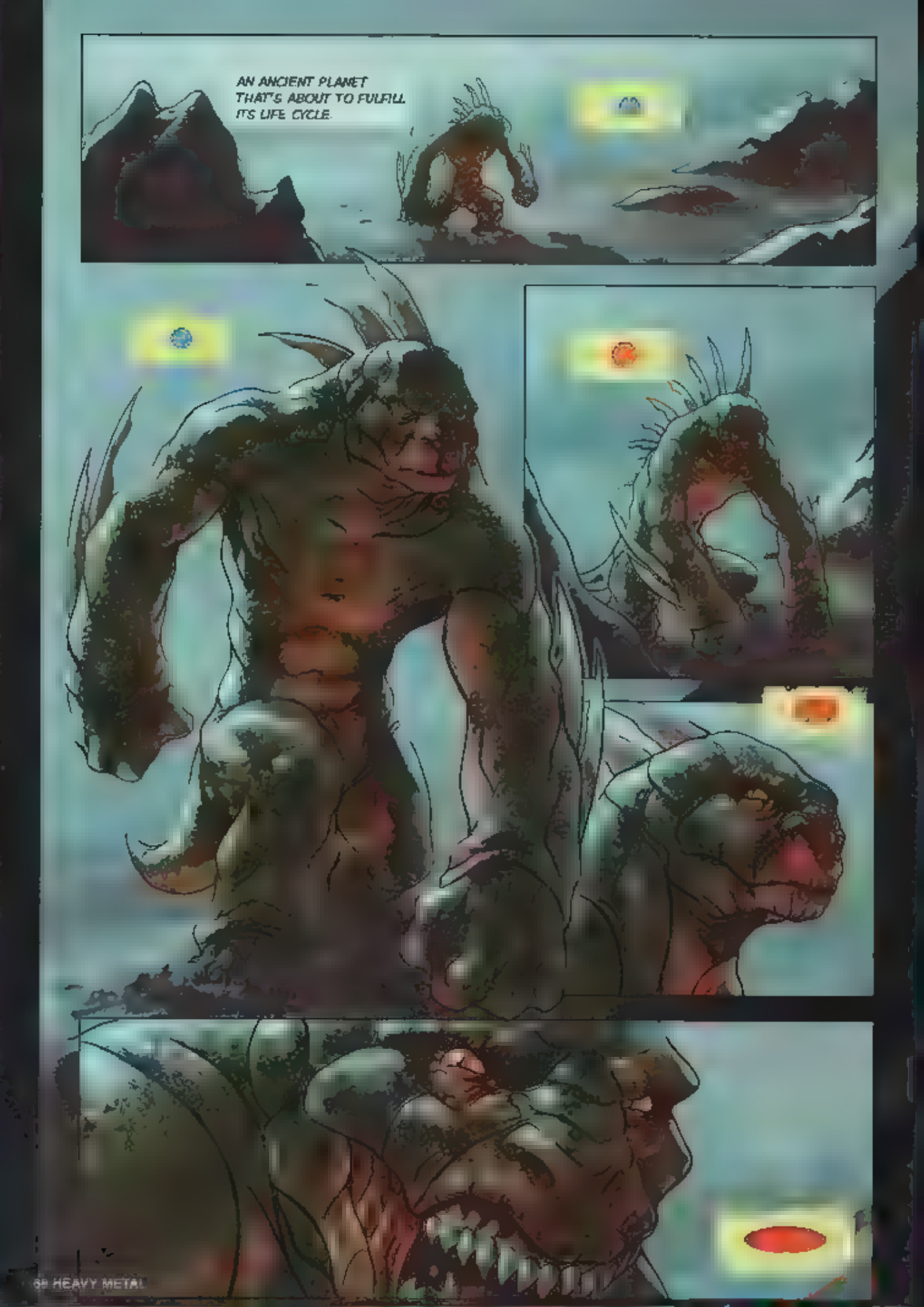
GOD BLESS THIS TOWN!
FEAR ME NOT I BRING GOOD NEWS
VERILY I SAY THAT YOU ARE PART OF THE ONLY GOD S FLOCK, THE GOD OF ALL MEN, AND THAT I AM HERE TO RETURN YOU TO HIS GRACE
HE CAME OUT OF NOWHERE I TOLD YOU THAT THE STAR WHICH APPEARED IN THE SK 30 NIGHTS AGO WAS A SIGN WE MUST HEAR HIM.
IT S EVIL MAG HERE S ONLY ONE GOD
HAT MAN SPEAKS THE TRUTH THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD A I M HIS MESSENGER.
BUT THE OTHER MAN HAS DOUBT HIS HEART
HROW ME YOUR SPEARS IF MY GOD IS FALSE, THEY'LL KILL ME BUT IF I SPEAK THE TRUTH MY GOD WILL PROTECT ME FROM HARM

M YOUR SERVAN. LORD
BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN THE MESSENGER OF THE ONLY GOD ACCEPT HIS WORD AS YOUR FAITH AND YOU WILL BE HEALED
BRING YOUR SICK PEOPLE BEFORE
BUT HOW? T S IMPOSSIBLE
MY GOD NEVER GAVE ME MY SIGHT BACK. EVEN AFTER I OFFERED HIM MY FIRSTBORN IN SACRIFICE WHAT DO YOU ASK FROM ME IN EXCHANGE FOR RETURNING MY SIGHT?
HE ONLY ASKS YOU TO HAVE FAITH IN HIM AND YOU WILL BE HEALED!
I BELIEVE IN YOUR GOD

I... I CAN SEE! IT'S A MIRACLE...!
IT NEVER CEASES TO AMAZE ME OUR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IS MAGIC AND MIRACLE TO THEM.
RESTORING THAT WOMAN'S SIGHT? THREE YEARS AGO I SAW HIM USE THOSE SAME NANOBOTS TO MAKE A GUY'S AMPUTATED HANDS GROW AGAIN.
THAT DAY HE BROKE [illegible] CONVERSION RECORDS THAT WAS TRULY AMAZING.
EARTH IS MAN'S CRADLE WITH THE HELP OF GOD MANKIND TRAVELED TO OTHER PLANETS BEYOND THE STARS
BUT A GREAT CATASTROPHE DRIFTED THEM APART AND THEY FELL INTO SAVAGERY
IT TOOK US 300 YEARS TO RECOVER AND REACH THE STARS AGAIN THOUSANDS OF MISSIONARIES TRAVEL THROUGH SPACE SEARCHING FOR THE LOST TRIBES OF HUMANKIND TO REUNITE THEM UNDER THE ONLY TRUE CREED
SOON OTHER MEN WILL COME TO BRING YOU PEACE AND ORDER THEY COME IN THE NAME OF THE ONLY GOD. TO REBUILD YOUR CIVILIZATION. RECEIVE THEM WITH OPEN ARMS BECAUSE THEY'RE YOUR ELDER BROTHERS
YOU'RE A LIAR THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD AND ITS YBI-TLA

WON'T BE ONE YOU DO EAT OR DRINK ANYTHING
WHEN YOU SUFFER COLD, HUNGER, FATIGUE AND THIRST YOU'LL APPRECIATE THE PRECIOUS GIFTS THAT YEI-TLA GAVE YOU.
I'M THE MOST FAITHFUL OF YOUR SERVANTS YOU'RE MY GOD

I STILL ONLY REMEMBER.
WHAT HAPPENED
MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO
IN A WORLD THAT
SOON EXTINCT
AND WILL HAPPEN AGAIN
WHEN EVERY HUMAN
THE UNIVERSE LEAPT
I AM THE ONLY GOD


AN ANCIENT PLANET
THAT'S ABOUT TO FULFILL
ITS LIFE CYCLE.

HEAVY METAL

PAIN.
HURT.
HURT NO ME!
HURT YOU!

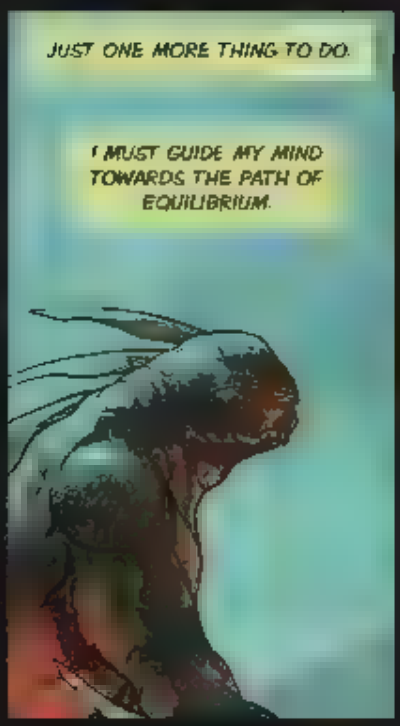
ATTACK WHY?
HEAL
WHY ATTACK ME?
HEAL MYSELF
WHY DID THEY ATTACK ME?
WHO?!
THIS TIME I'M PREPARED
WHAT'S THIS?
MAGIC?
HE'S A SUPERIOR BEING
A GOD MADE FLESH?!

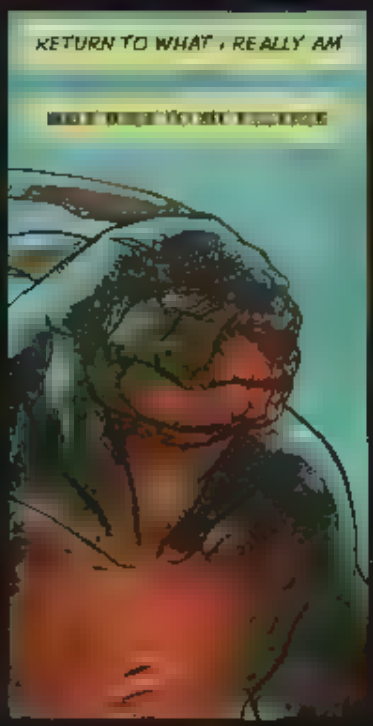
NO.
THAT I'M UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND A PHENOMENON...
...DOESN'T MEAN THAT I'M WITNESSING SOMETHING THAT DEFIES WHAT'S INHERENT TO THE UNIVERSE AND ITS LAWS.
GOOD REASONING.
WHAT YOU'RE FACING IS A FORCE FIELD CREATED BY ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL MINDS RECORDED IN HISTORY.
MY MIND.
THIS SUDDEN SELF CONSCIOUSNESS IN ME.
HOW'S IT POSSIBLE?
I ESTABLISHED A TELEPATHIC LINK BETWEEN OUR MINDS AND...
USING TELEKINESIS YOU'VE BEEN MOVING AND CREATING SYNAPSES INSIDE MY BRAIN.
WHILE YOU SHARE AND FILL IT WITH INFORMATION.
IT'S IMPRESSIVE THAT YOU SOMEHOW BECAME AWARE OF THAT.
NOW YOU'RE READY TO UNDERSTAND ME.
SINCE LONG BEFORE YOU WALKED THROUGH THIS DESERT I'VE STUDIED THE EVOLUTION OF YOUR SPECIES.
BRILLIANT MINDS HAVE TRIED TO REPLICATE YOUR ADAPTIVE ABILITIES.
NO ONE HAS COME
MY POWER IS VAST. HOWEVER, MY ENEMIES ARE MANY AND HIDE THROUGHOUT SEVERAL GALAXIES.
NOW I UNDERSTAND PATTERNS THAT GO BEYOND WHAT LANGUAGE CAN EXPRESS

YOU TRAVELLED ALL THE WAY HERE TO MAKE ME A PROPOSITION THAT YOU'RE SURE I CAN'T REJECT
YOU'VE IMBUED ME WITH THE GIFT OF INTELLIGENCE AND IN EXCHANGE YOU ASK FOR AN OATH OF ALLEGIANCE
IF YOU SUBMIT TO MY WILL...
I SEE WHAT WE CAN ACHIEVE TOGETHER
I CLEARLY SEE IT
HUGE CITIES THAT SPAN ACROSS CONTINENTS
UNBEATABLE ARMIES THAT WIN BATTLES YEARS BEFORE A SINGLE SHOT IS FIRED
EXOTIC PLANETS AND THEIR BIZARRE LIFE FORMS ENSLAVED.
PSYCHOPROYECTIONS!
FEW MINDS ARE ABLE TO DO THAT. AND THAT IS AFTER DECADES OF INTENSIVE TRAINING!
INSIDE MY MIND THE SEED OF ENLIGHTENMENT AND NOW IT FLOURISHES IN ALL ITS GLORY

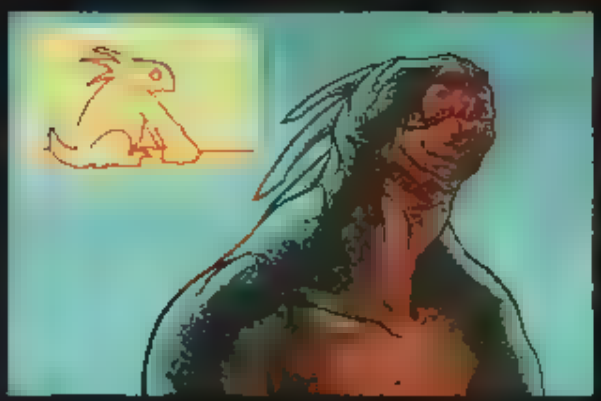
BUT IF YOU'RE ABLE TO DO...
YES.
YOUR DEFENSES ARE NO MATCH FOR ME NOW.
MY PLANET IS DYING. SOON IT WILL NOT SUPPORT LIFE.
NOW I KNOW THAT I'M THE LAST ONE OF MY SPECIES.
GLIMPSES OF THE FUTURE ARE UNRAVELED INSIDE MY MIND. THERE IS ONLY SOLITUDE.
A MOST FRIGHTENING SOLITUDE.
SO FAR AWAY FROM MY ESSENCE WITHOUT A PURPOSE. ALONE.
YOUR OFFER IS REALLY NOT MEANINGFUL FOR ME. IT'S NOT A GIFT BUT A CURSE.

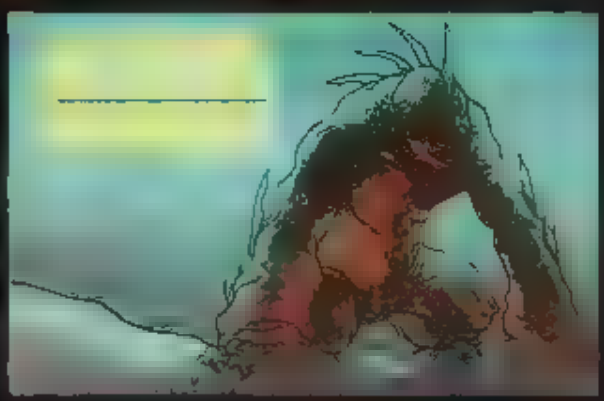
IN A MOMENT OF BLISS, A REVELATION
I TRULY UNDERSTAND.


JUST ONE MORE THING TO DO.
I MUST GUIDE MY MIND TOWARDS THE PATH OF EQUILIBRIUM.


RETURN TO WHAT I REALLY AM

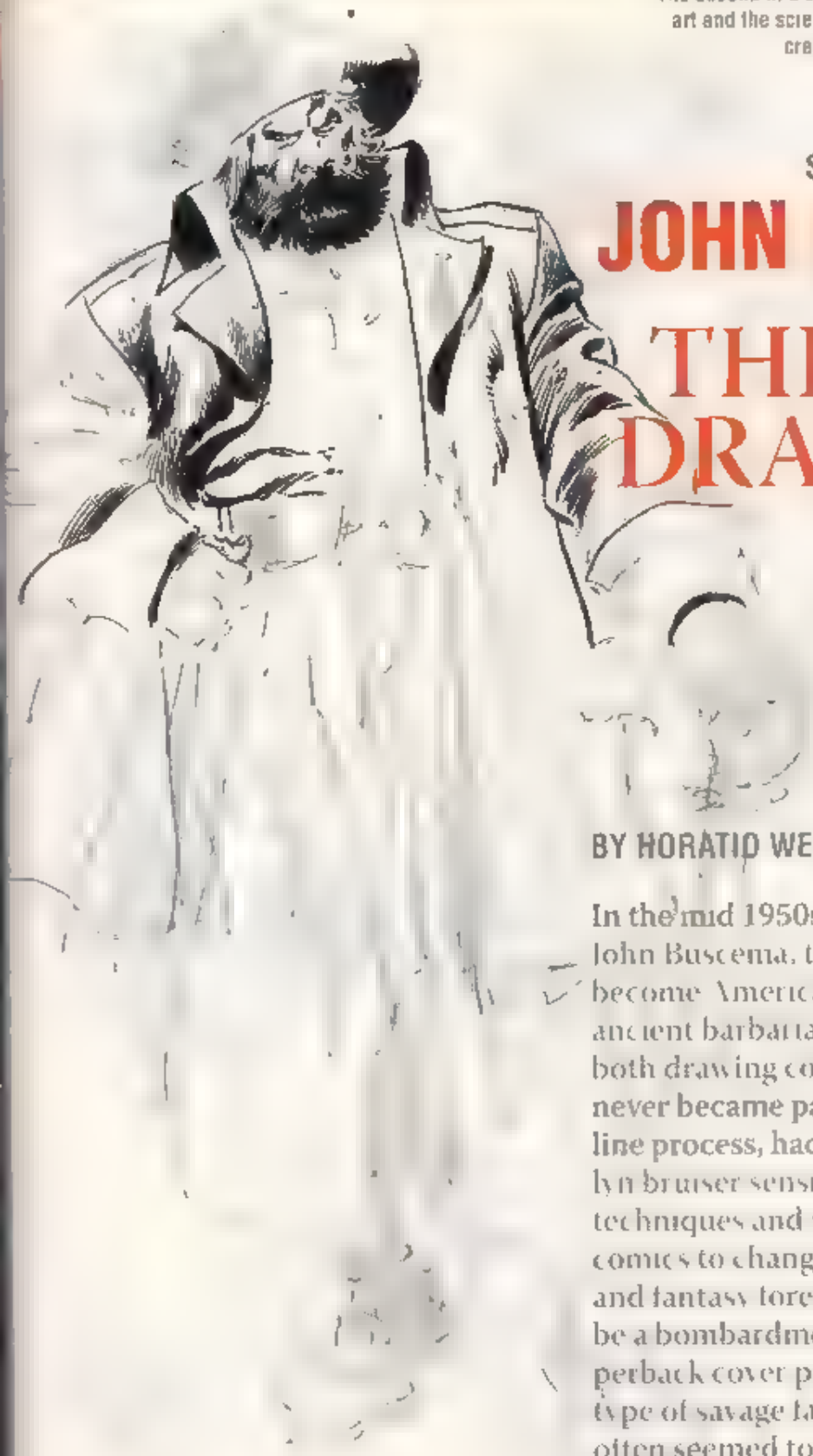
I WANT WALK BACK





DARWIN'S DEFEAT
STORY: RG LLARENA
ART: AXEL MEDELLIN

The second in a series examining influential genre art and the science-fiction/fantasy world's most creative personalities



SPOTLIGHT:

JOHN BUSCEMA

THE LOST DRAWINGS

BY HORATIO WEISFELD

In the mid 1950s, Frank Frazetta and John Buscema, the two artists who would become America's renowned illustrators of ancient barbarians and fighting men, were both drawing comic books. Frazetta, who never became part of the comics assembly line process, had begun to fuse his Brooklyn bruiser sensibility to master drawing techniques and would soon move beyond comics to change all things science fiction and fantasy forever. His long climax would be a bombardment of brain blasting paperback cover paintings that defined a new type of savage fantasy in which the artist often seemed to recreate himself as Tarzan Conan and other timeless fighting heroes.

John Buscema's path remained in the comics where he achieved fame and acclaim in the 1960s and 1970s with his brilliant work on Marvel Comics Silver Surfer, Thor and Conan, generally providing initial pencil art that was finished by the "inking" of lesser talents. In a final contrast to Frazetta's startling, ubiquitous color canvasses, Buscema's late masterworks may be an obscure but large body of black and white scrap sketches and loose warm-up drawings, a selection of which are printed here for the first time. In these visions the artist presents his own distinct parade of super masculine figures which I could argue go beyond Frazetta in the sense that Buscema convinces us that barbarians are timeless and everywhere, in the modern world as well as the old. The drawings say that there is no difference between today's gang member cop, soldier, yesterday's cowboy or the ancient gladiators, centurions, knights and thieves. This makes it all the more amazing that these images were mostly relegated to the normally blank space on the backside of commercial comic art boards or otherwise rendered on irregularly sliced bits of leftover paper. Stacks were sold by the artist for next to nothing. Can Buscema's disturbing disregard of these pieces be seen as some sort of a personal statement in itself?

Most of the scrap drawings appeared during the early 1990s while Buscema was entering the final phase of his career. Although the artist seemed to have given them little regard, others were awestruck. At the time I remember hearing professionals comment on Buscema's toss offs in low tones that sounded downright reverential. One day a guy showed up with a huge pile of Buscema scrap drawings. I bought a few. Someone told me that the artist had sold them, "By the inch." I would often sit slowly turning the pages of the book in which I kept them, finding myself back in time, on the streets of an ancient city, facing a huge blacksmith as he hammered a piece of red hot metal into a blade of war, seeing a sneering fat merchant walk before a cart pulled by his slaves or being sized up by an armor clad centurion as he tapped his fingers on a heavy sword.

Whenever I closed the book, I was left with a lingering mystery. Why had Buscema abandoned them... "By the inch"? And why did very few of the drawings seem to have been completed? Some are mere light pencil gestures, others rendered in scratchy ballpoint, a few appear nearly finished illustrations adorned with brushwork so delicate they testify to genius. Did some "working-class" ethic preclude the artist from finishing anything for which there was no pay—much less make the effort to preserve it?

During my childhood John Buscema was the backbone of The Marvel Comics production line. His art was everywhere: thousands of his pencil pages, hundreds of thousands of powerful images constantly being finished by "inkers" who rarely equaled the work before them. For the next twenty years I'd always look forward to the rare occasions when John Buscema would finish his own artwork on a comic book. Pure Buscema art was masterful and magical, like the drawings here.

So who knows why the artist did the things he did, in a manner and on material that would almost seem certain to keep much of his most thoughtful and brilliantly realized work from view? Whatever the reasons—here it is. ■

Heavy Metal readers are invited to view dozens of additional great Buscema drawings at the following address
http://buscemaolddrawings.wordpress.com

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 54

I SEE YOU'RE UPSET, SILVIA. WHAT'S GOING ON? YOU CAN TELL ME
TELL ME WHAT YOU THINK
BEFORE TODAY I HAD NEVER REALIZED HOW LITTLE I KNEW ABOUT ROSENTAL'S AND MY OWN FAMILY'S HISTORIES
FABIAN IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN TELL ME THINGS THAT EVEN MY FATHER DOESN'T KNOW OR DOESN'T WANT TO KNOW

EXACTLY. EVERYONE LINKED TO THE TABORS WAS ELIMINATED. ACCORDING TO HIM, THEY WERE ALL HERETICS AND HAD A PACT WITH THE DEMON, PERSONIFIED BY MADRAGON, WHO APPEARED AT THE TIME
GUARD. TAKE ME TO MONSIGNOR FABIAN!
YES MILADY
I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT THESE TALES WERE ONLY LEGENDS, BUT TODAY I'M NOT SURE ANYMORE
WE'VE ARRIVED MILADY
OPEN AND WAIT FOR ME HERE
BY GOD, I'M BRACING FOR THE WORST!

WE CAME TOO LATE
WAIT! HE MOVED
YES. HE'S STILL BREATHING!
WE HAVE TO GET HIM OUT OF HERE! WRAP HIM IN A BLANKET!
GUARD! WE'RE TAKING THIS MAN
YES, MILADY
AT THE SAME TIME
I STARTED TO SIGNAL THAT I WAS HUNGRY BUT MY MOTHER WASN'T THERE.
WHERE'S VALKA?
SAW HER LEAVE JUST A MOMENT AGO SHE WAS VERY UPSET I'LL TAKE CARE OF NIKO
UPSET BY PAIN AND HATE AN EXTREME HATE

SHE'S KRISS' HALF-SISTER. I THINK SHE'S AFTER JORK N. MUST ALERT THE GARRISON
SHE HAS SUPER HUMAN STRENGTH! NO ONE CAN STOP HER.
HOPE MONSIGNOR WILL RECOVER, BUT ..
I APOLOGIZE, MILORD. MILADY PRINCE JORKIN HAS BEEN ATTACKED BY ONE OF THE PARENTS OF THE GIRL WHO DIED IN THE ROYAL TOWER
WHAT?
JORKIN REMAINED AT THE EXACT PLACE WHERE THE CATAPULT HIT LOST IN HIS PETTY L TTLE WORLD, FALLING DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO STUPOR BY THE DAY
GUARDS, WATCH OUT! STOP THIS INTRUDER! PROTECT PRINCE JORKIN!
LET US DIE FOR THE PRINCE!
JORKIN, I KNOW WHERE YOU ARE. YOU SON OF A BITCH!
THE SUN GOT DARK ALL OF A SUDDEN. THE CLOUDS OF SMOKE AND ASHES FROM THE VOLCANO OF FERONA COVERED EVERYTH NG
THERE SHE IS FIRE AT WILL

FOR THE FIRST TIME, WE SAW WHAT MY MOTHER WAS HIDING BEH ND HER BANDAGES
DON'T LET HER APPROACH ME!
THIS BITCH WANTS TO ATTACK ME! I'LL HAVE HER BURNED ALIVE! CATCH HER ONCE AND FOR ALL, COWARDS!
LOOK! SHE HAS A CONTAGIOUS DISEASE! LOOK AT HER SKIN!
NO DOUBT SHE'S A SORCERESS
YES, MAJESTY!
HER BODY TIGHTENED UP, N AN APPARENT POSITION OF SUBMISSION.

BEFORE UNLEASHING A FURY AND KILLING EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE AROUND HER
MOTHER HERE AM
ARCHERS, TAKE CARE OF THIS SORCERESS ONCE AND FOR ALL!
IMPOSSIBLE, MILORD
COWARDS!
LET'S GO, TOLBAC THIS IS OUR CHANCE TAKE THE LEFT SIDE!

IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT HER EYESIGHT

.. AND HER REFLEXES WEREN'T HUMAN.

WELL YOU CAME TOO LATE THIS ONE IS ALREADY DEAD, JUST LIKE MY HALF-SISTER KRISS DON'T TAKE ANOTHER STEP!
DON'T LET HER DO IT! ASK ME ANYTHING!
KRISS' DEATH WAS AN ACCIDENT PRINCE JORKIN WASN'T
WASN'T WHAT? TELL ME, BY LUCIFER! HE WASN'T WHAT?
AT THIS MOMENT A SOUND WAS HEARD THAT ONLY THOSE WHO
HAD SEEN MADRAGON RECOGNIZED
OH!
BY ALL THE SA NTS!
THERE!
IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD!
WHAT S T MOTHER?
IT'S T QUINTESSENCE OF THE SUPREME POWER

YOU ARE FREE AT LAST MOTHER
IT'S MADRAGON
I FELT AN EXTREME JOY THAT I SHARED WITH MY MOTHER AS WE WATCHED
WHAT WE COULD CALL MY AUTHENTIC GRANDMOTHER MAKING HER GRAND ENTRANCE.
AM YOURS
INCROIBLE!
BUT WHAT IS SHE DOING?
JIMENEZ

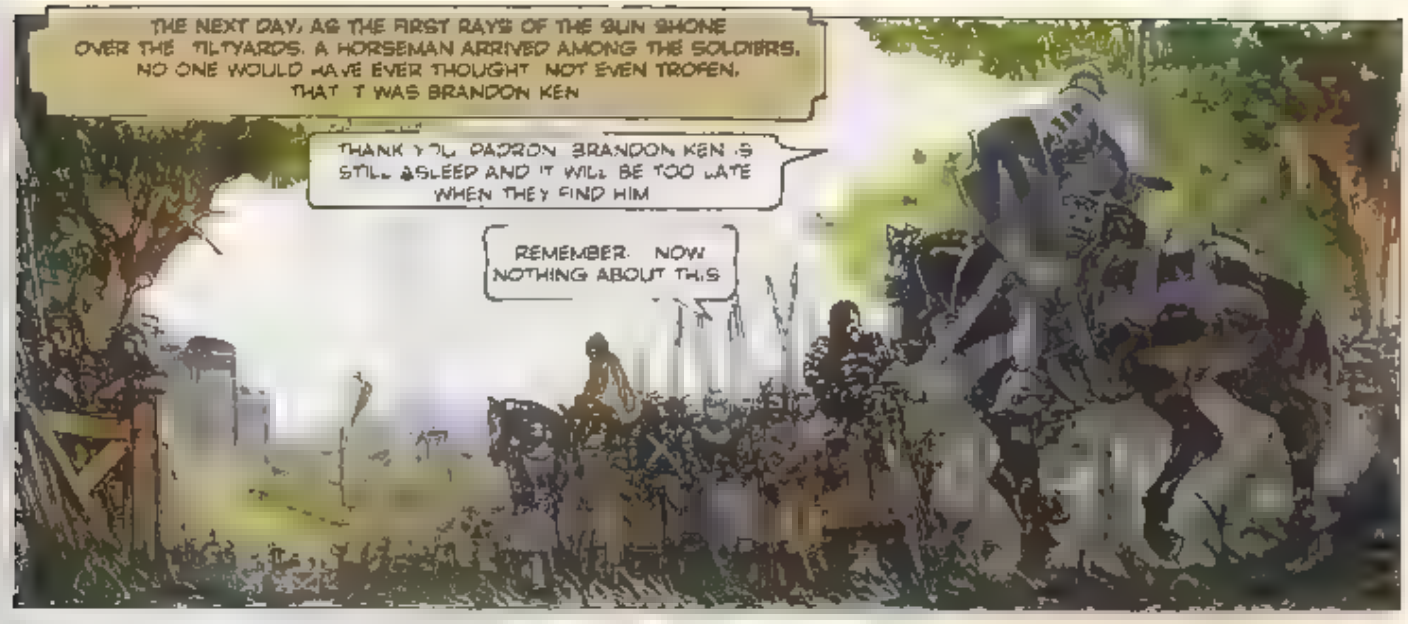
MOTHER
SHE JUMPED

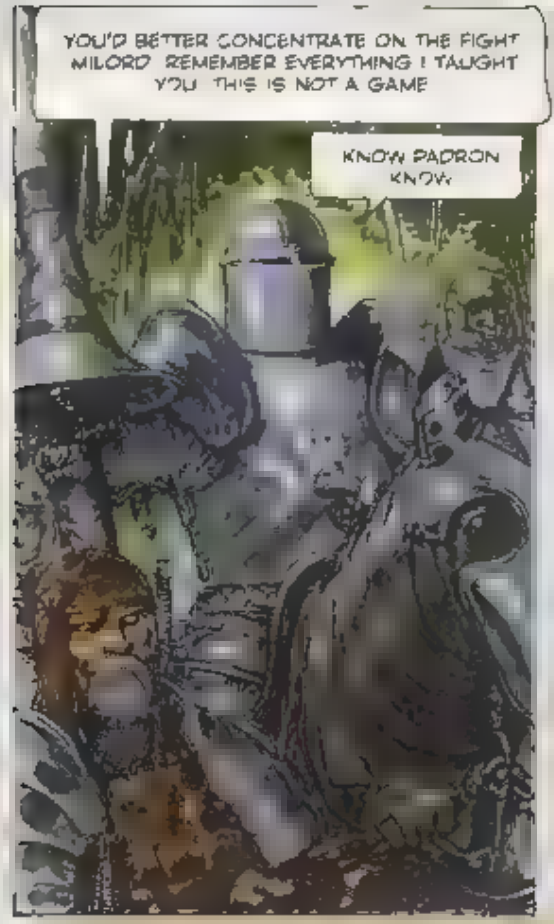
YOU ARE FREE AT LAST, MOTHER...
IT'S MADRAGON
FELT AN EXTREME JOY THAT I SHARED WITH MY MOTHER AS WE WATCHED
WHAT WE COULD CALL MY AUTHENTIC GRANDMOTHER MAKING HER GRAND ENTRANCE
AM YOURS
INCREDIBLE
BUT WHAT IS SHE DOING?
ATTACK!
SHE WARNED

DEATH WAS WAITING FOR HER ONE HUNDRED FEET BELOW.
THE MIST AND THE ASHES HID THE END OF HER FALL
A STORM LIKE WE'D NEVER SEEN BEFORE STRUCK ROSENTALL
NOBODY WHO DOESN'T HAVE WINGS SOME SAY THEY SAW TWO DRAGONS FLY SIDE BY SIDE BETWEEN THE LIGHTNING BOLTS AND THE CLOUDS OF THE FERONA VOLCANO.
WE CAN'T SEE ANYTHING FROM HERE
DOESN'T MATTER NOBODY CAN SURVIVE THIS FALL
THAT NIGHT MY FATHER THE GROUP OF ARTIST AND MYSELF, WERE SUMMONED BY KING BELMONTH
EVER SINCE HER TWENTY-EIGHTH BIRTHDAY VALKA HAS HAD PHYSICAL ISSUES WHICH ONLY WORSENED DURING HER PREGNANCY.
THE SPOTS ON HER SKIN APPEARED RIGHT AFTER SHE LEARNED SHE WAS TO HAVE A SON

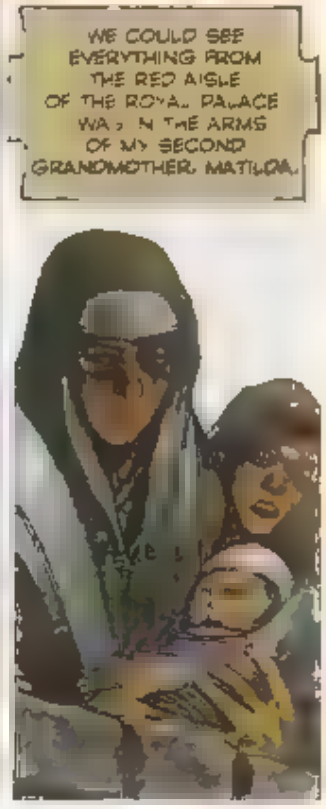
WE HID THE SPOTS FEARING SHE'D BE ACCUSED OF BEING A SORCERESS.
NO DOUBT THAT SHE WAS! WHAT ELSE COULD HAVE THE POWER TO TRANSFORM INTO A MONSTROUS ASSASSIN?
SHUT UP, JORKIN! CONTINUE, KAMIL
THE FIRST THING WE NOTICED IS THAT SHE BARELY EVER SLEPT ANYMORE SINCE SHE ARRIVED IN THE REGION. SHE WAS OBSESSED BY THE FERONA VOLCANO
OF COURSE SHE WAS OBSESSED BY IT! THAT'S WHERE MADRAGON LIVES! AND THIS CHILD? IT'S THE SON OF !
THAT'S ENOUGH JORKIN!
FATHER, THESE PEOPLE, THIS CHILD, THEY ALL WENT TO THE DEMON. IT'S OBVIOUS THE REAPPEARANCE OF MADRAGON PROVES IT. WHAT SHOULD WE DO ABOUT THEM?
WE DON'T DO ANYTHING, JORKIN AND SHUT UP ONCE AND FOR ALL! THESE PEOPLE ARE THE SAME WE'VE KNOWN FOR MANY YEARS
THAT'S WHAT IT IS. IT'S A DISEASE. IT'S BETTER IF WE KEEP THEM ISOLATED. TAKE CARE OF THEM AS BEST WE CAN, AND KEEP A WATCH ON THEM. IT'LL BUY US SOME TIME TO FIND A SOLUTION
SO BE IT. WE HAVE A MUCH LARGER ISSUE WITH THIS ARMY CAMPING AT OUR DOORS THAT CAN DESTROY US IF WE DON'T TAKE CARE OF IT
WE SHALL DO AS SILVIA SUGGESTS
ALL THE COMEDIANS WILL BE CLOISTERED IN THE RED AISLE UNDER MEDICAL SUPERVISION UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

SO WE DON'T DO ANYTHING? A SHE-DEVIL COMES OUT OF THIS GROUP AND TRIES TO KILL ME AND WE DO NOTHING?
YOU HEARD RIGHT UNLESS YOU WANT TO PUNISH THEM ALL FOR SOMETHING YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR
I'M NOT
SHUT UP AND GO CRY SOME PLACE ELSE. I'D RATHER NOT SEE YOU
ARMORER LET US PREPARE THE SPEARS AND THE EQUIPMENT FOR TOMORROW'S JOUST
FATHER!
YES MILORD
IN TROFEN'S ARMY CAMP.
MOTHER, I THINK I PROVED MYSELF IN COMBAT. BRANDON KEN AGREES. TIME HAS COME FOR YOU TO TRUST ME
TRUST YOU BUT WILL LET BRANDON KEN HANDLE IT. HE WILL TAKE CARE OF BELMONTH OR WHOMEVER TAKES HIS PLACE
A TOURNAMENT IS DIFFERENT THAN FIGHTING SOLDIERS. YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TRAINED AT THAT YET, TREPPO
BUT MOTHER
END OF DISCUSSION.
MOTHER IS RIGHT YOU ARE BRAVE AND CONFIDENT, BUT
I AM TIRED OF BEING TREATED LIKE A CHILD!
YOU HEARD MOTHER WE'D BETTER REST AND YOU, PADRON YOU WILL HELP ME FOR THE FIGHT
YES, MILORD
PADRON, DO YOU STILL HAVE THIS POWERFUL BEVERAGE THAT PUTS ONE TO SLEEP? THE ONE WE USE TO EASE PAIN?
I DO AND SEE WHERE YOU'RE GOING, MILORD AM WITH YOU AND I WILL OBEY YOU, BUT IT'LL BE YOUR RESPONSIBILITY
DON'T WORRY NO ONE WILL KNOW!

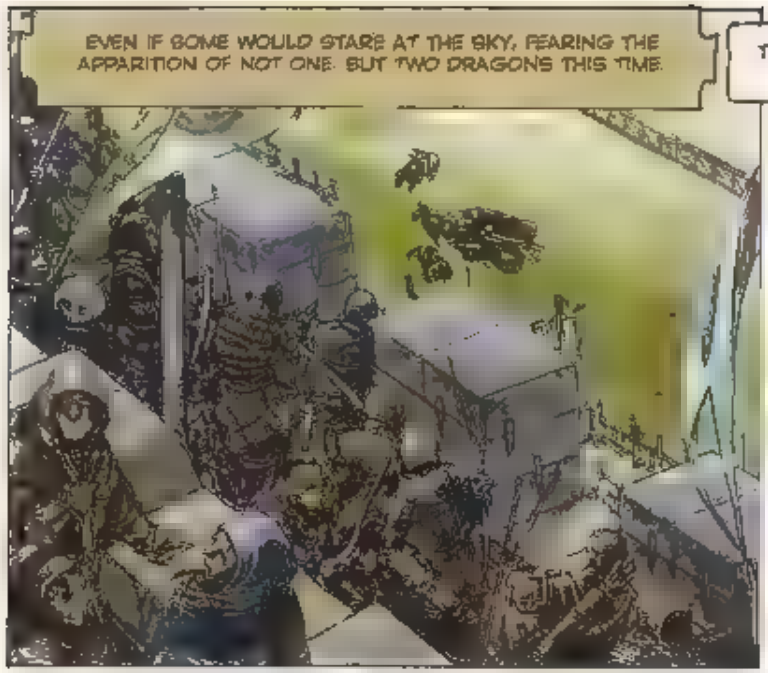

THE NEXT DAY, AS THE FIRST RAYS OF THE SUN SHONE OVER THE TILTYARDS, A HORSEMAN ARRIVED AMONG THE SOLDIERS. NO ONE WOULD HAVE EVER THOUGHT NOT EVEN TROFEN, THAT IT WAS BRANDON KEN
THANK YOU, PADRON. BRANDON KEN IS STILL ASLEEP AND IT WILL BE TOO LATE WHEN THEY FIND HIM
REMEMBER. NOW NOTHING ABOUT THIS


YOU'D BETTER CONCENTRATE ON THE FIGHT MILORD. REMEMBER EVERYTHING I TAUGHT YOU. THIS IS NOT A GAME
KNOW PADRON. KNOW.

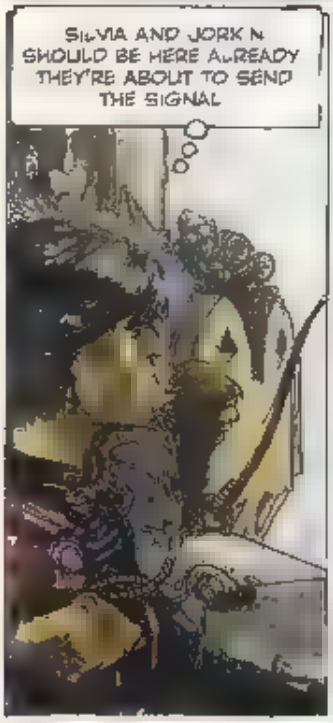
LATER IT WAS BELMONTH OF ROSENTALL'S TURN TO SHOW UP


WE COULD SEE EVERYTHING FROM THE RED AISLE OF THE ROYAL PALACE WAS IN THE ARMS OF MY SECOND GRANDMOTHER, MATILDA.

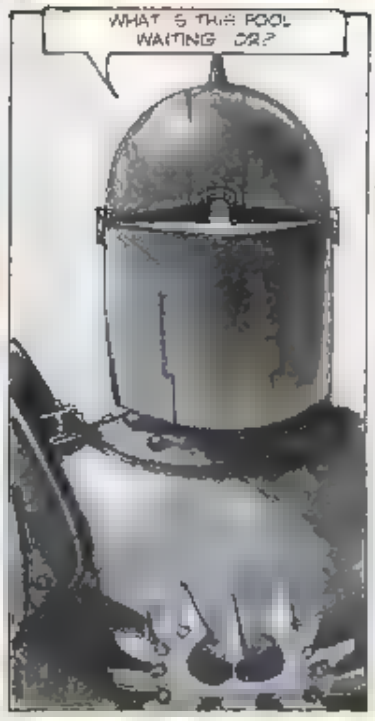
THE ENTIRE COURT AS WELL AS THE RABBLE GATHERED AT THE CRENELS TO SEE A MAN DIE


EVEN IF SOME WOULD STARE AT THE SKY, FEARING THE APPARITION OF NOT ONE, BUT TWO DRAGONS THIS TIME.

THE ARCHERS ARE READY MILORD
PERFECT AT THE SLIGHTEST SIGN OF AGGRESSION, THEY MUST SHOOT


SILVIA AND JORK N SHOULD BE HERE ALREADY THEY'RE ABOUT TO SEND THE SIGNAL

SEND THE SIGNAL, ARMORER
YES, MAJESTY


WHAT'S THIS FOOL WAITING FOR?

ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

THIS JOUST WILL ONLY END WHEN ONE OF THE TWO OPPONENTS DIES

NONE OF THE TWO FIGHTERS WAITED FOR THE END OF THE SPEECH... USELESS ANYWAY
THE IMPACTS WERE IDENTICAL AS WERE THEIR PRECISION

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
IT'S NOT BELMONTH!
IT'S PRINCESS SILVIA!
SILVIA GOT UP IMMEDIATELY AND WAS GIVEN ANOTHER WEAPON, AS WAS HER OPPONENT
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT MILADY?
BETTER THAN EVER ARMORER
CUT HER TO PIECES.

IT CAN'T BE BRANDON KEN! HE WOULDN'T BE THAT STUPID IT CAN ONLY BE .OH. NO NO
BY GOD!

IN THE NAME OF MY FATHER ROSENTAUL REMAINS OURS
AAARGH
IT'S NOT TROPEN, MAJESTY
IT MUST BE ONE OF HER SONS! LET'S GO!

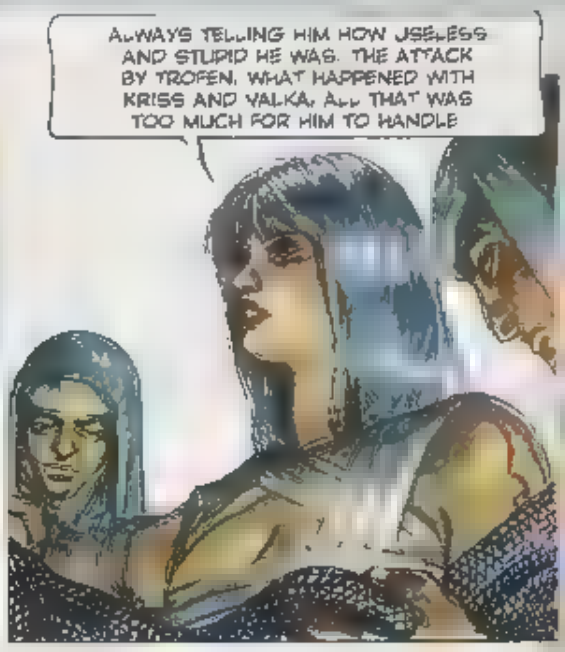
THE FIGHT WAS FAIR. THE PACT MUST BE HONORED. THE WAR MUST END
DON'T THINK THEY AGREE WITH THE RESULTS. HURRY
MOVE OVER! WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE IS TREPPO? PADRON, WHERE IS TREPPO?
BUT BRANDON KEN! SO WHO!?
GENERAL TROFEN, THE ONE WHO LOST S TREPPO! AND HE'S DEAD!
ARCHERS, BE READY!
HOW S THAT POSSIBLE? HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE? I AM RESPONSIBLE, MY BROTHER!
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE, BRANDON KEN
WHAT ARE YOU WA TING FOR, IDIOTS? SHOOT! SHOOT! K ll THEM A !

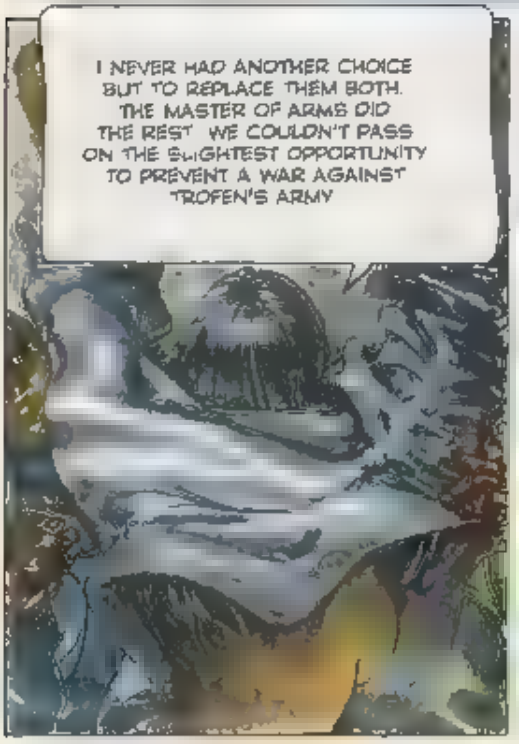
DON'T LET THEM ESCAPE! DON'T STOP SHOOTING! AIM AS FAR AS YOU CAN!

THEY'RE INSIDE! RAISE THE BRIDGE.
SILVIA! HOW COULD YOU BE SO CARELESS? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I FEEL AS GOOD AS ONE CAN AFTER KILLING A MAN. BUT I WON'T COMPLAIN AM A BELMONTH. I WAS BORN WITH A SWORD
BY THE WAY, TROFEN SENT ONE OF HER SONS TO FIGHT PROBABLY TO ASSURE VICTORY OVER MY FATHER
BUT WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE IS YOUR FATHER? WHY DID YOU REPLACE HIM?
DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE
WHEN I MET HIM, VERY EARLY TO HELP HIM PUT ON HIS GEAR AND WISH HIM GOOD LUCK BEFORE THE FIGHT
FOUND HIM IN HIS ROOM, DEAD. IN JORKIN'S ARMS JORKIN WAS HOLDING A BLOODY DAGGER AND WAS TALKING TO HIM NOT REALIZING WHAT HE HAD DONE
MY GOD. JORKIN! WHAT HAPPENED?
FATHER, I KNOW YOU LOVE ME! KNOW YOU LOVE ME EVEN IF YOU NEVER SAY IT

HE HAD JUST KILLED HIM. HE WAS BESIDE HIMSELF WHEN HE SAW ME. HE FLED. CRYING LIKE A BABY
I KNOW YOU LOVE ME!
FATHER! GOD! CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
MOTHER! MOTHER! WHERE ARE YOU?

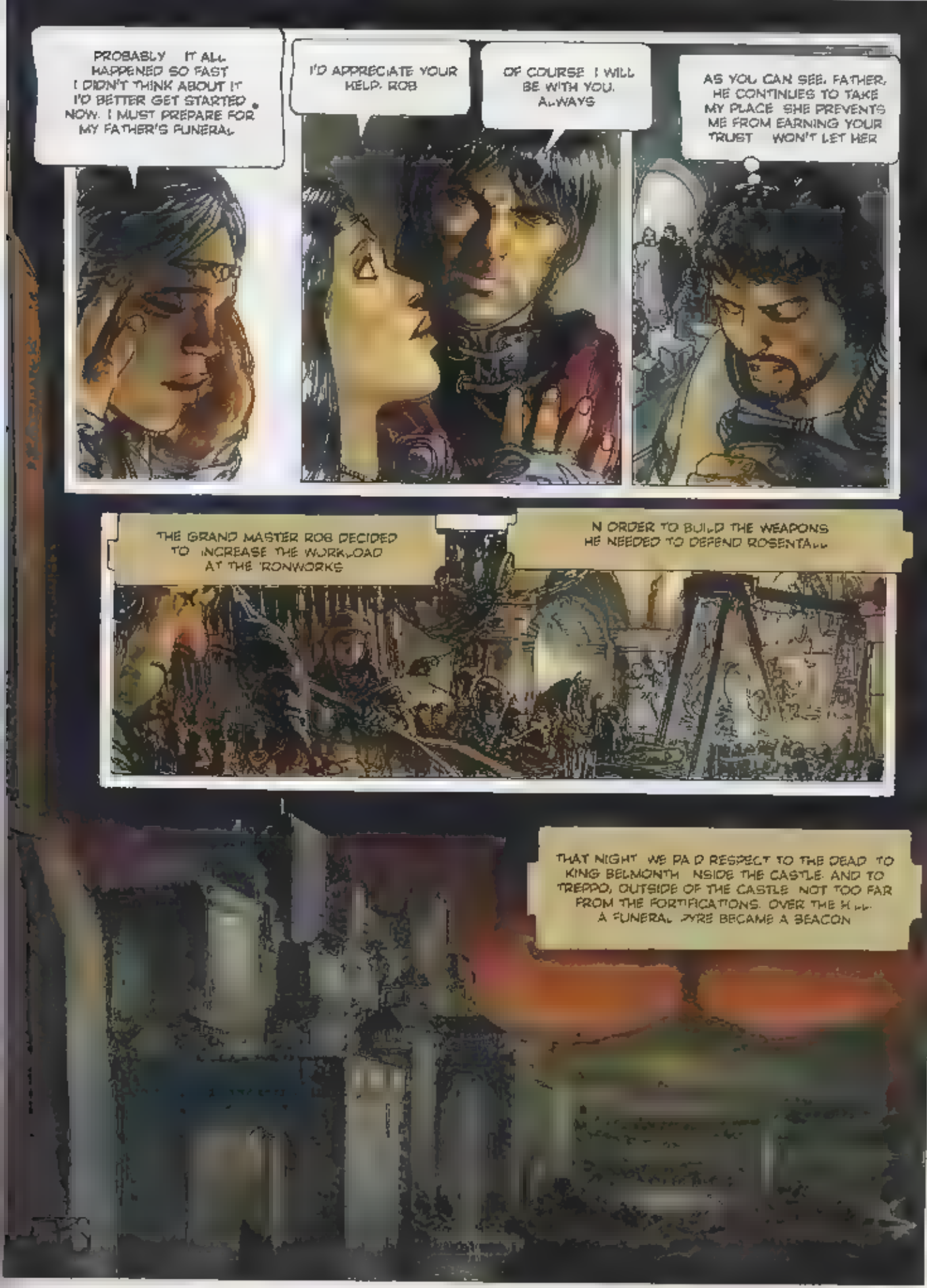
IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT HE COULDN'T BEAR THE PRESSURE THAT MY DAD PUT ON HIM


ALWAYS TELLING HIM HOW USELESS AND STUPID HE WAS. THE ATTACK BY TROFEN, WHAT HAPPENED WITH KRISS AND VALKA, ALL THAT WAS TOO MUCH FOR HIM TO HANDLE

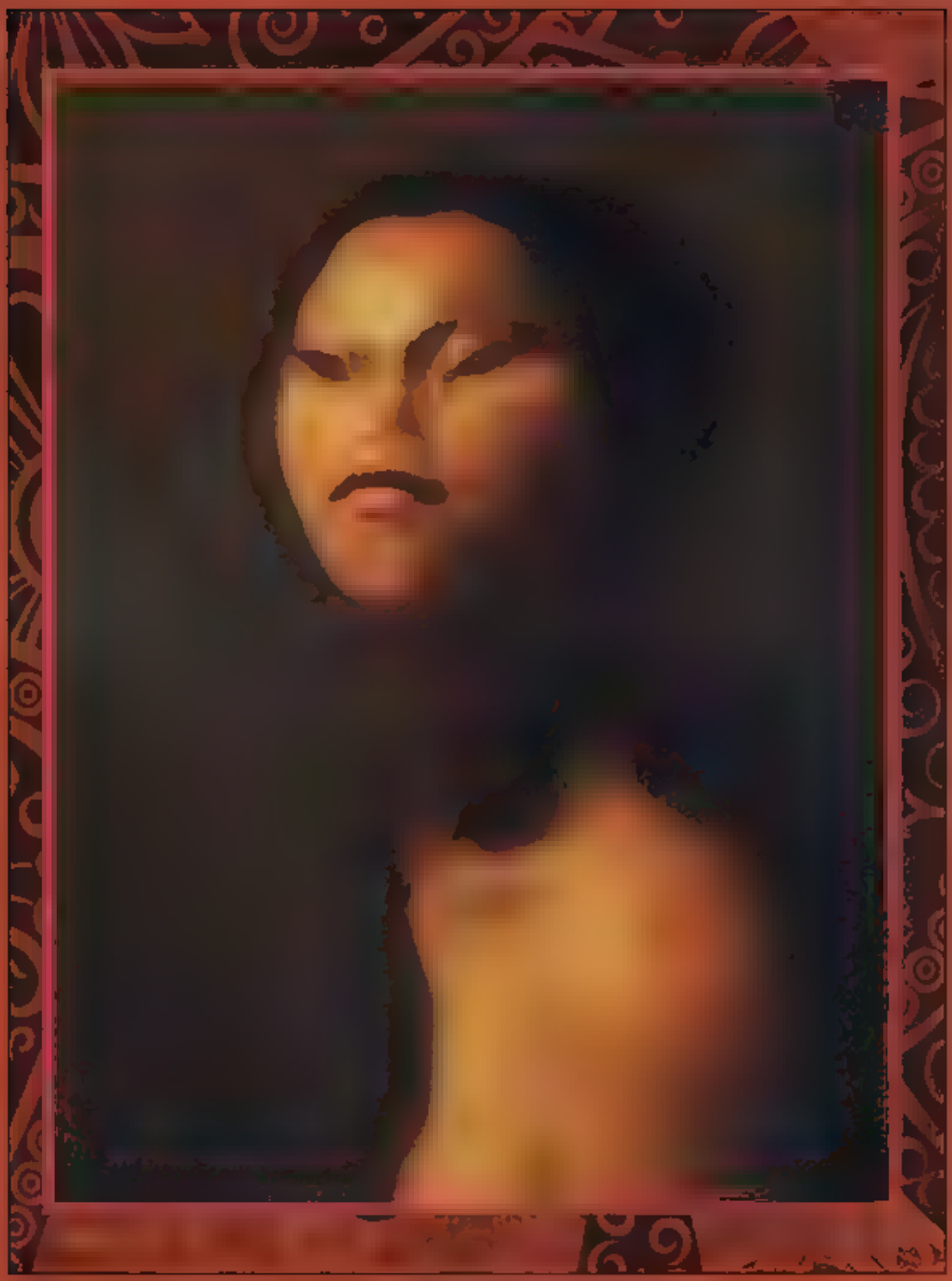

I NEVER HAD ANOTHER CHOICE BUT TO REPLACE THEM BOTH. THE MASTER OF ARMS DID THE REST. WE COULDN'T PASS ON THE SLIGHTEST OPPORTUNITY TO PREVENT A WAR AGAINST TROFEN'S ARMY

ALTHOUGH AS YOU COULD SEE IT WAS POINTLESS. WORSE. THE HATE GREW STRONGER AND WITH IT THE VIOLENCE

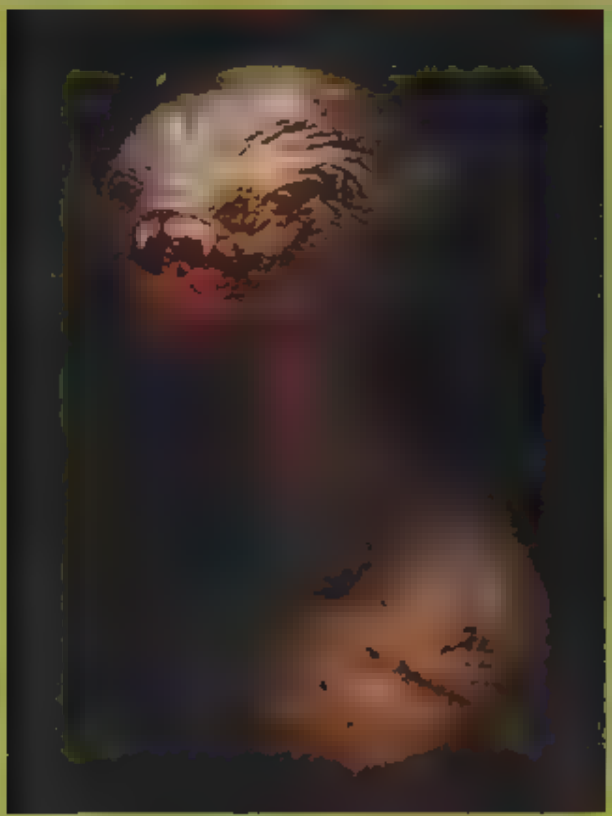
IF YOU WANT TO REPLACE YOUR FATHER, YOU MUST NOW WEAR THE CROWN, ON TOP OF THE ARMOR AND THE SWORD.


PROBABLY IT ALL HAPPENED SO FAST I DIDN'T THINK ABOUT IT I'D BETTER GET STARTED NOW. I MUST PREPARE FOR MY FATHER'S FUNERAL
I'D APPRECIATE YOUR HELP, ROB
OF COURSE I WILL BE WITH YOU, ALWAYS
AS YOU CAN SEE, FATHER, HE CONTINUES TO TAKE MY PLACE SHE PREVENTS ME FROM EARNING YOUR TRUST WON'T LET HER
THE GRAND MASTER ROB DECIDED TO INCREASE THE WORKLOAD AT THE IRONWORKS
IN ORDER TO BUILD THE WEAPONS HE NEEDED TO DEFEND ROSENTAL...
THAT NIGHT WE PAID RESPECT TO THE DEAD TO KING BELMONTH INSIDE THE CASTLE AND TO TREPPO, OUTSIDE OF THE CASTLE NOT TOO FAR FROM THE FORTIFICATIONS. OVER THE H...
A FUNERAL PYRE BECAME A BEACON

AT THE SAME MOMENT HIGH IN THE SKY
ABOVE THE ERUPTING FERONA VOLCANO, THE FLIGHT OF
TWO FEMALE DRAGONS PAID ONE LAST TRIBUTE TO THE DEAD
ONE OF THEM WAS MY MOTHER
JIMENEZ ©



JOHN MAHONEY
ARTIST STUDIO



John graduated from Pratt Institute in NYC with a BFA in Illustration. He moved to LosAngeles to work for Disney feature Animation as a Visual Development Artist on such films as Atlantis, Treasure Planet and Emperor's New Groove. His short film created for a pitch to help sell Emperors New Groove was instrumental in getting that film greenlit.

After working on ten Disney feature films, John decided to pursue his passion as an independent film maker. Since then John has produced over twenty short films and two independent features. He has directed numerous documentaries on such prominent people as Doug Chang designer of the new Star Wars films and Tyrus Wong, designer of Bambi.

He teaches such diverse classes as figure drawing, sculpture, film design, storyboards, stop motion animation and character design in the United States as well as in Taiwan, Singapore and Malaysia. John's illustration work has been showcased in Spectrum, Erotic Signals, and John has had several gallery exhibitions around the Los Angeles area including a one man show at the Pacific Asia Museum in Pasadena.

He recently completed a 100 page hard cover art book titled "Inspiration Now". He's currently looking for a publisher.

John currently works in Los Angeles as a Concept Designer and Independent Film Maker.

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Email: JohnMahoney@sbcglobal.net

DO NOT
ENTER
DO NOT
ENTER

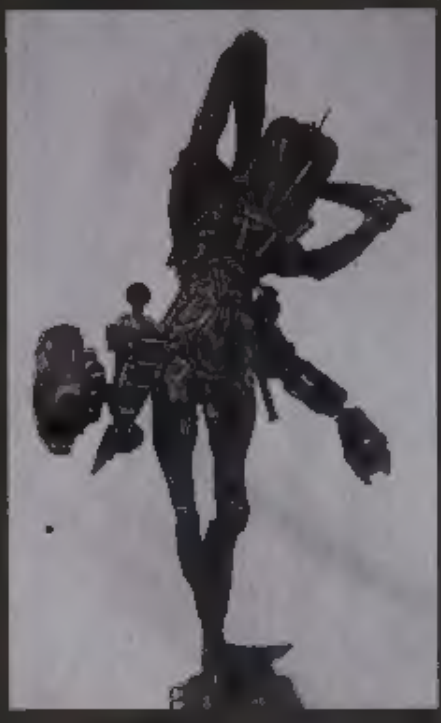
I realized that sometimes you have to go against maybe everybody. Everybody you know might be telling you that you shouldn't do this, you're not going to make a living doing this, this has already been done, this is silly. There's every reason in the world not to do something, but if something is pulling you, your inner voice saying, "I'd really like to do this," then that's what you should jump on.

So what is the secret to inspiration? Besides gathering reference material and finding places and things that inspire you, I think the real secret to this notion of inspiration is to really find out and actively seek what is exciting to you, and maybe only you. That guilty pleasure — you're supposed to be doing your homework, but you really want to do this, and whatever that thing is that is really pulling you — that is the secret.

If you can accept that and put some time into that side of things, you're going to start feeding this fire that's going to just turn into a blaze of energy.

So, with some new technologies, such as ZBrush, I'm actually realizing I can do everything that I want to do. I'm really excited about that. I want to do thousands of creatures, and create movies and animation and theater design and costumes, and I'm realizing with the technology we have nowadays, you can in fact do it all.

It's just organizing your thoughts and planning your projects so that you can get things done in a way that you're excited and happy to do them, so you can do it in an efficient way, then move on to the next project and have a whole arsenal of work that you can be proud of someday.



By Juan Gimenez
I Drakkar: The End of Centuries
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